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Annual Open  
House Europe  
Activity  
Report

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2023

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# Open House Athens 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.4 Open House Athens 2023
Legal Name:	OPEN CHAOUS GKRIΣ
Date:	March 30–April 2, 2023
Name:	Open House Athens
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	61 buildings, 2 walking tours, 12 creative spaces and 3 video tours
City:	Athens
Country:	Greece
Duration:	4 days (2 days for the main event and 2 days of parallel events)

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Athens 2023 attracted 13500 attendees: 4920 men, 8570 women, 10 non-binary people.

In terms of volunteers, the festival had 155 men and 295 women; 450 volunteers in total.

Open House Athens 2023 was organised by 1 man and 8 women; 9 people in total.

# Introduction



Architectural office on Vasilissis Sofias av. Photo by Aris Vedertsis © Courtesy of Open House Greece

Open House Athens took place between April 1–2, with the established architectural tours of 60+ buildings and 2 routes in the centre of Athens and Kifissia, where 450 volunteers led tours for thousands of visitors.

Open House Athens 2023 celebrated the theme ‚Building Futures Together‘, showcasing the dynamic interplay between Athens‘ architecture and community. This year’s festival opened the doors to 13 unique venues across Athens under the event ‚MADE in

Athens', which allowed visitors to delve into the production processes of various products and engage with local designers. The 'OPEN SCHOOL' initiative, led by dedicated volunteers, provided educational tours for student groups and others, highlighting some of the most intriguing buildings featured in the Open Tours.

The 'OPEN TOURS' were a highlight, attracting thousands of people to explore over 60 buildings. This diverse collection ranged from neoclassical to modern structures, encompassing residential, commercial, cultural and religious spaces, each with its unique architectural significance. Adding to the experience, the 'OPEN WALKS' programme offered two themed walks—'The Mansions of Kifissia' and 'Byzantium under the Shadow of the Acropolis'—which enriched participants' understanding of the architecture and history of these areas.

In a digital format, 'OPEN OFFICE' presented taped interviews with three prominent architectural firms in Athens, focusing on sustainability. These interviews premiered on the OPEN HOUSE Athens YouTube channel, offering insights into contemporary architectural practices.

The festival also embraced technology through the '3D VIRTUAL TOUR', where visitors could experience laser scanners capturing two significant buildings. These 3D tours are set to be featured on the Open House Athens website, extending the festival's reach.

Complementing these activities were engaging competitions: 'OPEN PHOTO' challenged Instagram users to capture the essence of this year's theme of 'Building Futures Together'; 'OPEN VOTE' allowed visitors to select their favourite tour, simultaneously appreciating the efforts of the volunteers involved; 'OPEN your map' offered a unique keepsake for attendees, who created personal maps by collecting stamps from the buildings they visited.

The visual identity of Open House Athens 2023 was born from a competition, encapsulating the spirit of the event in the design of printed materials and volunteers' t-shirts, all themed around 'Building Futures Together.' This year's festival not only showcased Athens' architectural marvels but also fostered a sense of community and shared future among its participants.

# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Athens 2023 festival had 6 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu Annual Theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

239

Approximate number of guided tours in these buildings

2381

Approximate number of attendees

List of buildings:

1. Kaizen Campus
2. Oyster
3. The Wings
4. The Orbit
5. Element
6. Prodea HQ

# Kaizen Campus



Kaizen Campus. Photo by Yiorgis Yerolymbos © Courtesy of Open House Greece

The new office building of Kaizen Gaming, completed in 2023 by the architectural firms ASPA-KST and Urban Soul Project, in collaboration with co-development companies Dimand and Prodea, with Prodea as the project owner. The building is expected to be certified under the international sustainable development certification system LEED.



# The Orbit



The Orbit. Photo by Pygmalion Karatzas © Courtesy of Open House Greece

Redesign of a 9-story office building, with façade architectural design by Lianou Chalvatzis Architects and architectural design (excluding façades) by Lianou Chalvatzis Architects / I & A Vikelas & Associates Architects. It is certified at the highest level (Platinum) for sustainability according to the LEED system and has received Gold certification from WiredScore for its high digital connectivity.

## The Element

The new office building of Prodea in Maroussi, designed by the architectural firm RS SPARCH, was completed in 2022. It is certified with the highest environmental distinction Platinum according to the LEED standard.



The Element. Photo by Lilly Anastasiou  
© Courtesy of Open House Greece

# Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Athens 2023 festival had 2 other activities from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu Annual Theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number of total attendees:

1606+

## Activities:



Anna Karountzou Ceramics. Photo by Ioanna Alexopoulou  
© Courtesy of Open House Greece



Open House Athens 2023. Photo by Ioanna Alexopoulou  
© Courtesy of Open House Greece

**MADE IN ATHENS.** This event took place at various production areas of Athens, in order to highlight the creative community of the city, introducing artists, designers and all kinds of producers and creative minds. The creators and producers showed the way they work, using modern and traditional methods. Some of the designers showcased working using sustainable materials and methods.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwO5sul9OuQFjwIT1rEmgUSRUOvOKptVR>

**OPEN PHOTO.** A photo contest on Instagram, allowing everyone to share their experiences of the festival from their unique perspective. This year's contest theme was 'Building Futures Together' and focused on sustainability.

**DESIGN THE POSTER.** The annual poster design competition to define the festival's visual identity and highlight both the concept of sustainability and the annual theme.

# Integration of the local Open House Festival

Other activities unrelated to the Open House Europe programme in Open House Athens 2023:

OPEN WALK  
OPEN SCHOOL  
OPEN VOTE  
OPEN your map

## Shortly about the unique activities

OPEN WALK. Open House Athens' themed walking tours guided visitors around lesser-known areas of the city that have a particular architectural and historical significance. The programme included 2 themed walks ('The Mansions of Kifissia' and 'Byzantium under the Shadow of the Acropolis'), which introduced the architecture and history of these areas.

OPEN SCHOOL. Open House Athens' established educational programme, OPEN SCHOOL, included organised visits to certain

buildings, as well as creative and production spaces. These visits were specifically tailored for school classes, educational institutions and other organised groups with an educational focus.

OPEN VOTE. The Audience Award competition gave visitors the chance to vote for their favourite tour. All participants were automatically included in Open House Athens' lottery to win an amazing gift. Volunteers of the awarded tour received praise and souvenirs.



Open House Athens 2023. Photo by Aris Vedertsis © Courtesy of Open House Greece

OPEN your map. This competition invited visitors to create a special souvenir from Open House Athens 2023, their personal map, by collecting stamps from the buildings they visited. Visitors could obtain a printed map and, after completing their visits to the

buildings, upload a photo of their stamped map to Instagram from a public profile, tagging Open House Athens. The Open House Athens team's favourite map won a commemorative Open House Athens gift.

# Local volunteer activities



Coordinators of the Open House Athens 2023. Photo by Gavrii Lux © Courtesy of Open House Greece

## Training of volunteers

The Open House Athens 2023 festival had 6 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu Annual Theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number of volunteers: 18 group coordinators (volunteers with increased responsibility), 435 volunteers. Every year, Open House Athens receives many volunteer applications. The volunteers of Open House Athens become a large community: during rehearsals with their team, at the info point, at Open House Athens' meetings and culminating in the closing party. The distinctive t-shirt they wear signifies their role during the event and makes them stand out. Their main responsibilities include welcoming, guiding, accompanying visitors to the buildings, informing the public and promoting products at various points in the city. After the conclusion of the event, they receive an electronic certificate of their participation.

Organisers expect the volunteers to be kind, cooperative, patient, communicative, dynamic and consistent. They were called upon to prepare adequately to fulfil the role they undertook. Their participation in the initial onboarding meeting was important and they were divided into groups for rehearsals with the group coordinator. Additionally, they could assist in parallel activities that took place before the main event and in other tasks such as research, writing texts, translations, putting up posters and so on. A prerequisite for participation in the volunteer team was being above the age of 18 and having availability on the days of the event.

Two days before the main event, to distribute t-shirts and other required materials, a gathering was organised outside the info point. Moreover, Open House Athens ended in a festive way as all participants were invited to the closing party, including volunteers, architects, owners, sponsors and guests. The volunteers always have the best time there!

The festival's organisers made a competition on Instagram, where volunteers could upload stories from the event's preparation, with the lucky winner receiving a camera as a gift.

OPEN VOTE is a contest that also applies to the volunteers since the volunteers of the building voted first in the poll received a commemorative gift and an award.

# Different audiences in the local Open House festival

In total, Open House Athens 2023 had 75 guided tours and parallel events in English.

Approximate number of visitors to guided tours in other languages:

400

## Programme for non-native speakers

Athens is a major tourist destination city. Open House Athens attracts both native and non-native speakers since it has English guided tours for all of the buildings. It is an event that celebrates architecture and urban design, providing opportunities for people from all backgrounds to explore and learn more about the city's buildings and spaces. It is a very much anticipated festival and the tourists visiting during that time are informed by their

hotels, taxi drivers and media, among others. The Open House Athens website and other promotional material are also in English.

Expats also take part in the events. There are also some embassies included in the event tours and the Open House Athens festival tries to be as open as possible to other languages and cultures.



# Distribution



Ziller-Loverdou Mansion. Photo by Alex Alexandris © Courtesy of Open House Greece

## Online activities

OPEN OFFICE. This online event introduced some of the most interesting architectural offices in Athens. In a series of interviews, architects spoke about their work and showed their offices. In this year's videos, contemporary approaches to sustainable planning and the parameters architects must take into account were discussed and analysed.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwO5suI9OuQFjwIT1rEmgUSRUOvOKptVR>

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# Open House Bilbao 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.15 Open House Bilbao 2023
Legal Name:	Asociación Open Urbanity
Date:	7–8 October, 2023
Name:	Open House Bilbao
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	66
City:	Bilbao
Country:	Spain
Duration:	2 days

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Bilbao 2023 attracted 28416 attendees.

The festival had 602 volunteers.

Open House Bilbao 2023 was organised by 3 male and 9 female organisers; 12 people in total.

# Introduction

The Open House Bilbao (OHB) 2023 Festival was held between October 7–8 under the title 'The (in)material city'. It was the seventh edition of an event that, on this occasion, reflected on the tangible and intangible dimension that makes up the city, as well as on the environmental, social and economic sustainability of architecture and urban planning. This festival was once again an unmissable event for residents, as it was much more than an architectural competition: it was an opportunity to bring the public closer to a discipline that is often distant or alien to the everyday language of people. The 2023 edition of Open House Bilbao was the largest yet, with more than 28000 visits over the weekend.

This edition opened the doors of 66 spaces that are usually closed to the public or unknown. From the 66 spaces spread across the city, 62 were buildings selected based on their architectural and historical value, and the remaining 4 were relevant public spaces that

allowed visitors to analyse different aspects such as green infrastructure, urban resilience, social uses, mobility and road safety. With this broad catalogue, a wide vision of the city's architectural richness and variety was offered.

In addition, the Open House Bilbao programme was complemented by various activities, such as visits in which the architects themselves accompanied visitors through their works. There were urban walks that allowed visitors to discover various corners of the city on foot through a more architectural perspective, family workshops in which children reflected on sustainable cities and a boat route that showed the city from another point of view. This edition also included the 'Open House Passport', which allowed visitors to collect stamps from buildings and the 'Visual Stories' exhibition open call, which invited visitors to reflect on their experience of OHB through artistic and visual forms of expression.

# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Bilbao 2023 festival had 5 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

### List of buildings:

1. Etxebarri Storm Tank
2. Beta II—As Fabrik
3. IDOM Headquarters
4. Sarriko Metro Station
5. Casa Cuna

68

Approximate number of guided tours in these buildings

1387

Approximate number of attendees

# Etxebarri Storm Tank



Etxebarri Storm Tank © Courtesy of Asociación Open Urbanity

Storm tanks are huge reservoirs created to store rainwater. They are key infrastructures for a more sustainable city for many reasons. Firstly, they reduce the possibility of flooding, so they are key elements for climate change adaptation. Secondly, they collect the initial rainwater, which is the most polluting because it carries all the dirt accumulated in the streets and on the asphalt. The tanks retain and purify this rainwater so it can return to nature in a better condition.

The Etxebarri storm tank, located in a meander of the Nervión river with a volumetric capacity of 70000 m<sup>3</sup>, is special because it is an open-air tank. It is composed of four differentiated bodies (tanks). The project was completed with the construction of a 3-storey control building.

## Beta II—As Fabrik



Beta II—As Fabrik © Courtesy of Asociación Open Urbanity

The original building is part of the industrial complex, designed by Francisco García Alquegui and Juan José Abrisqueta in 1963. After many years in a state of abandonment, the building has been refurbished and now houses a university. The Beta II refurbishment project is an example of how reconvertng buildings makes more sustainable use of built heritage, as opposed to tearing down an old building and building a new one, with the amount of energy that entails. The building is a modern space but gives a glimpse of its past, allowing visitors to understand the importance of regeneration and reuse in a sustainable city.

# IDOM Headquarters



IDOM Headquarters © Courtesy of Asociación Open Urbanity

The building, located in a former port customs warehouse on the edge of the Deusto canal, is the new headquarters of the IDOM company. The refurbishment of this building is renowned for its ambitious energy efficiency. It has a surface area of 14400 m<sup>2</sup> dedicated to offices and research spaces. Some of the building's innovative energy efficiency measures include energy-efficient sanitary equipment in the bathrooms, rainwater storage for later use in the building itself, automatic regulation of lighting to save energy, photovoltaic panels, and water heating and cooling facilities. The green roof hides the air-conditioning equipment, becoming just another façade while acting as an element of noise and CO<sub>2</sub> absorption. Aesthetically, the uniqueness of the façade lies in its large solar protection slats, designed to increase the building's energy efficiency in summer which results in energy savings of 60%.



## Additional activities reflecting the annual theme



Open House Bilbao 2023. Photo by Zerikusi © Courtesy of Asociación Open Urbanity

The Open House Bilbao 2023 festival had 3 other activities from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu Annual Topic: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number  
of total attendees:

**220**

In 2023, OHB featured activities to sensitise, train and raise awareness among young people and children regarding the challenges and opportunities posed to a city by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). These activities included 11 workshops of 45 minutes each in groups of 20 people. The workshops were for families and an adult had to register with children between recommended ages of 4 to 12.

## Workshops:

### GREEN FAMILY WORKSHOP: Discovering the Sustainable Development Goals

In this workshop, participants delved into the third goal of SDG: health and wellbeing. An expert dynamically led children through games that made them reflect on the following questions: What is life in the city like? How do we move through it? How do we take care of ourselves and our way of life? Participants played with urban planning, building the city, shaping free spaces and studying the possibilities of voids, designing a city from a bird's eye view.

### PINK FAMILY WORKSHOP: Discovering the Sustainable Development Goals

In this workshop, the tenth goal of SDG was explored: reducing inequalities. An expert guided children through games that made them reflect on the following questions: What role does each person play in a society? How do we behave with others? Do we all have the same

opportunities and rights? During one activity, people swapped their shoes to see the world from a different point of view. They learnt the importance of sharing, yielding and feeling in order to reflect and act responsibly.

### BLUE FAMILY WORKSHOP: Discovering the Sustainable Development Goals

This workshop focused on the sixth goal of SDG: clean water and sanitation. The questions explored on this occasion: How important is water in our lives? Are we aware of the water we consume with every decision we make? As every drop counts, the facilitator highlighted the importance of controlling consumption and reducing production and waste. Drop by drop, participants were invited to reflect on the importance of this precious commodity, visualising the journey water makes with each opening and closing of a tap.

# Integration of the local Open House Festival

Other activities not related to the Open House Europe programme at Open House Bilbao 2023:

## Boat guided tours

This guided boat tour along the Nervión river was free of charge for participants and required prior online registration. It was the most in-demand activity of all. Guided by architects, residents were able to get to know the riverfront from a different point of view, travelling along the estuary, which is key to understanding the development of Bilbao: its origins as an inland port, commercial and industrial activity, urban configuration, neighbourhoods, relations with its surroundings and so on. As Miguel de Unamuno once said, 'the estuary alone explains the history of Bilbao'. A total of 12 boat trips were made with 30 people on each route. Four of the tours were conducted in Basque.

## Guided tours with architects of the buildings

Whereas most tours were guided by volunteers, these tours were led by the architects

who designed the buildings or spaces. This activity was free of charge for participants and required prior online registration. It was very popular with visitors as they were interested in finding out more technical details about the spaces they visited.

## The Open House Passport

This was an activity in collaboration with the Bilbao Association of Traders that allowed visitors to get a passport that could be stamped on each guided tour.

The passports could be obtained in the different buildings or at the festival information points spread around the city. Around 15000 copies of the passport were distributed and visitors toured the buildings in search of their stamp as if it was a cultural game. By accumulating 3 stamps, visitors were entered in the draw for several gift cards of 50 euros each to spend in Bilbao's stores. Around 500 people handed in their passports to participate in the draw. Overall, this activity encouraged visitors to take guided tours and supported sustainable consumption of local goods.

# Local volunteer activities

## Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

**450**

The training for volunteers took place 3 days before the festival. Participation in the volunteer programme is free and open to all residents. People who sign up for the volunteer programme don't need to have previous knowledge of architecture and history. For this reason, an hour-and-a-half training session was held. The meeting took place in an iconic building of the city: the auditorium of the Bilbao Philharmonic Society. This location was very special for the volunteers as it is a private building. Therefore, the training was

also a cultural experience the volunteers could enjoy. Based on their feedback, volunteers valued being able to meet each other and the experience of enjoying an event in such a special building the most.

One of the difficulties faced was the presence of returning volunteers who already knew the dynamics of the festival and may have gotten bored at some points of the training. For future editions, there is a plan to include novel activities.

## Trial guided tours

Approximate number of attendees:

550



Open House Bilbao 2023. Photo by Zerikusi © Courtesy of Asociación Open Urbanity

Approximately 20 days before the festival, volunteers made a pre-visit to the building where they would be volunteering on the days of the event. This was a trial visit in which volunteers were guided by an expert and got to know the building firsthand. 66 pre-visits were made, one for each building that opened its doors during the festival.



## Party for volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

**300**

On the last day of the festival, as the last festival activity, the party for volunteers was held. Open to all volunteers and organisers, it was held in the assembly hall of Open House Bilbao's headquarters. At the party, volunteers shared their experiences while enjoying ambient music, food and drinks for free.

Open House Bilbao 2023. Photo by Zerikusi  
© Courtesy of Asociación Open Urbanity

## Other motivators for volunteers

Approximate number  
of attendees:

**550**

### Certificate of Participation

Volunteers received a diploma certifying their participation in the event.

### University Credits

Students from two universities (the Faculty of Architecture of the Public University of the Basque Country and the Faculty of Design of the IED Kunstal University) received university credits for volunteering. This was carried out based on agreements OHB had with both faculties.

### Anonymous Satisfaction Survey

Volunteers could fill in an anonymous online satisfaction survey to make suggestions for future events.

# Different audiences in the local Open House festival



Open House Bilbao 2023. Photo by Zerikusi © Courtesy of Asociación Open Urbanity

Open House Bilbao 2023 had 1 guided tour for English speakers and 1 for Basque speakers.

There were 3 workshops and 4 boat guided tours in Basque that attracted 165 people.

190

Approximate number of attendees for guided tours in English

55–66

buildings were accessible for people who use wheelchairs.



## Programme for non-native speakers

Open House Bilbao 2023 carried out 1 guided tour in English, with a capacity for 25 people. Rather than a visit to a single building, it was a more substantial tour of the city. To ensure that Open House Bilbao would have an audience for this activity, marketing for the activity was jointly published in English with the tourist office and the hotels participating in the event.

One of the challenges faced by the initiative was to attract non-native speakers. In Bilbao, there are two official languages: Spanish (majority and widespread) and Basque (minority). Therefore, local administrations carry out a policy of positive discrimination to promote the use of Basque. In previous editions, the festival was criticised because the programme offered in Basque was seen as inferior to that offered in Spanish. The problem is complex because OHB is an event where tours are led by volunteers so the language is selected by them and less than a third speak Basque fluently. It is therefore difficult to incorporate foreign languages into the event without having fully achieved a bilingual programme with the two local official languages.

## Programme for people with disabilities

The catalogue of selected buildings was created with special care to ensure that the majority (more than 80%) were accessible and without architectural barriers. Although there are classic or old buildings that have not been refurbished, which were not accessible due to their characteristics. Despite this, they are kept in the catalogue due to their great cultural and architectural interest.

People who have some kind of accredited disability (with proof issued by the competent authority) could request a priority access wristband. This wristband allowed entrance into buildings without having to wait in queues. There was a parallel queue, for which between 2–5 places were reserved in each group, depending on the building. In addition, if a person with the wristband required assistance, the accompanying person could also enter without queuing.

The main challenge of this initiative is the increasingly widespread use of the wristband to avoid queues. Many priority access wristbands were requested and if this trend continues in future editions, the wristband will lose its effect.

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# Open House Brno 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.21 Open House Brno 2023
Legal Name:	Spolek Kultura a Management, Culture and Management club
Date:	13–14 May, 2023
Name:	Open House Brno
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	110 + 10 gastronomic partners
City:	Brno
Country:	Czech Republic
Duration:	2 days

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Brno 2023 attracted 28165 attendees.

In terms of volunteers, the festival had 38 men and 77 women; 115 volunteers in total.

Open House Brno 2023 was organised by 3 men and 9 women; 12 people in total.

# Introduction

Open House Brno (OHB) is a free weekend festival held annually in Brno that allows participants to visit dozens of buildings that are not typically open to the public. Every visit is free of charge. The festival is part of a worldwide network of Open House events. For the first full-scale event in 2018, 23 locations participated and the event attracted around 8000 people. Since 2019, about 20 thousand visitors have attended each edition of the event, except for OHB 2020, which was held

online for two editions in a single year. With each year, the number of buildings increased from 23 to 110. In 2023, in addition to tours of well-proven locations, OHB offered several dozen tours focusing on the role of female architects in Brno's architecture. After the initiation of Open House Europe (OHEu), the topic of sustainability was explored through examples of brownfield reanimation, ecological thinking during building conception and other aspects highlighted in additional locations.

# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

Open House Brno 2023 festival had 20 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

**4600**

Approximate number of attendees

Approximate number of guided tours in these buildings:  
125–130 tours out of 996

### List of buildings:

1. Areál Slatina
2. AZ Tower
3. CEITEC Vysoké učení technické
4. Clubco
5. Čistírna odpadních vod Brno—
6. DADA Distrikt
7. Domeq
8. Nová Zbrojovka
9. Ponávka
10. Spielberg Centre
11. Špitálka—prohlídka exteriéru
12. Špitálka—Teplárny Brno a.s.
13. Transfuzní oddělení
14. Park vnitroblok Poříčí Křídlovická-Zahradnická
15. Grand-prix, bývalá vyhlídková kavárna Kohoutovice
16. Moravská zemská knihovna—depozitář
17. Farma Ráječek
18. Mendelův skleník, Mendelovo Muzeum MU
19. Tower Boutique, Titanium
20. Zahrada vily Tugendhat za soumraku

# DADA Distrikt



DADA Distrikt. Archive of DADA Distrikt © Courtesy of Erika Voith

This former textile factory on the Svitavský embankment was renovated into an eye-catching combination of loft housing, studios, open plan offices and a sustainable roof garden designed by architects from DADA Distrikt, Kogga, GreenVille, Acer Woodway, Partero and U1.

The right environmental strategy was one of the pillars in designing the functionality of the whole building. The roof garden offers not only breathtaking views and places to rest but also cools the building, produces fruit and vegetables, captures 100% of the rainwater and provides a home for a lot of bees and dragonflies. The root cleaner in the courtyard pumps grey water out of the building and then returns it to the roof and back to the bathrooms for flushing. The factory windows, 2.5 m high, have three panes of glass and seven chambers. The golden façade is a modern alternative to the classic yellow that most Brno factories had a hundred years ago. Its metallic colour also reflects the light and does not overheat the perimeter walls unnecessarily.

# Farma Ráječek



Farma Ráječek. Archive of Farma Ráječek® Courtesy of Spolek Kultura & Management

This former radio broadcasting station was recently converted into a farm. Strawberries can be grown, like tomatoes, hydroponically. This means that 80% less water is needed to grow them than using field cultivation. All the water and nutrients the plants do not accept are recycled in a closed system, which saves resources and keeps substances out of the environment. As in life, a complete compromise does not work with strawberries so while it's not possible to have strawberries reach giant sizes and deep red colours, nevertheless, the local taste remains. To address problems such as diseases and pests, biological protection is used to protect the plants based on natural principles. For example, insect predators are used to feed on strawberry pests and mould is prevented by creating the ideal climate for plants.

# Wastewater treatment plant



Wastewater treatment plant. Archive of Brněnské vodárny a kanalizace © Courtesy of Spolek Kultura & Management

This facility purifies wastewater not only from the city of Brno but also from adjacent towns and municipalities. It was built on the Modřice cadastre in 1961 to replace the original wastewater treatment plant in Pisárky from 1871, which was no longer sufficient for the Moravian metropolis in the post-war period. The original two-stage wastewater treatment plant with anaerobic stabilisation of sludge was reconstructed at the turn of the millennium into a mechanical-biological wastewater treatment plant, which also includes sludge and energy management in the form of a biogas station generating heat and electricity. Between 2009–2010, the operation of the activation tanks was

optimised and after the expansion, it is able to meet even the strictest requirements of the EU.

The facility routinely processes 35 million cubic metres of wastewater per year. To give an idea, this amount is two and a half times the volume of the Brno dam. The facility near the Olympia shopping centre receives impurities from Brno and a large area in its vicinity which includes Kuřim, Modřice, Želešice and Česká. However, the Brno network and treatment plant are also connected with sewerage from other sixteen towns and municipalities. Examples include Lipůvka, Rozdrojovice, Troubsko, Šlapanice and Pozořice.



# Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Brno 2023 festival had 2 other activities from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu Annual Topic: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number of total attendees:

**1190**

## Discussion: Brownfield Reanimation

Lecturer Nicholas Taffe talked through his project on converting empty and abandoned spaces into residential buildings and then explained the current drive in Ireland to repurpose vacant buildings. The lecture was in English.

## Exhibition: 'Písečník'

Písečník 94 (Eng. Sandman 94) was a unique location of a former temporary drone colony in an excavated sandpit. It was open to the public in the spirit of the idea of being inspired by the life of ancestors and offered visitors relaxation, knowledge and experiences. Among other things, visitors could see an impressive sand wall on the edge of a former quarry, a herb garden and a renovated house from the 1930s. During the festival, the Inspiration Centre was set up at the location in the form of an exhibition describing the location's context, history and recent development.

# Integration of the local Open House Festival

Other activities not related to the Open House Europe programme in Open House Brno 2023:

## Exhibition: 'Women in Architecture'

What is the creative share of the credit for Brno's buildings that is misattributed to men, and why are these buildings not associated with women? More women are becoming students of architecture schools than men and sustaining the profession requires at least an equal share of attention and appreciation, which is sadly missing. This exhibition aimed to look at architectural creation during socialist times, based on the reality of the period and without the ideological flair and optics of the then-active, often budding female creators. 24 locations were made available to the public.

# Local volunteer activities



Open House Brno 2023. Photo by Pavel Gurka © Courtesy of Spolek Kultura & Management

## Training of volunteers

Volunteer Thursdays are generic events of Open House Brno, opening OHB locations to volunteers throughout the year so they can familiarise themselves with multiple locations, select their preferred one and have the chance to conduct a trial tour. The low

Approximate number of attendees:

**5–15**

number of participating volunteers is due to Volunteer Thursdays usually being organised on short notice. To address this, OHB intends to prepare a calendar for the whole year where building owners can indicate available times and interested volunteers can sign up ahead of time.

## Initial gathering of volunteers

During the welcoming event for volunteers, the core values of the festival are shared, instructions given and t-shirts, maps, badges and other essentials distributed. In 2023, sequential distribution was employed so upon entering, the incoming volunteer had to go through a set of points with different assigned

Approximate number of total attendees:

**60**

tasks. This included checking their location and time slots, signing insurance papers, receiving printed texts for the location (for visitors who were disabled or English speakers), location banners/orientation signs as well as badges, t-shirts and marketing materials for specific locations. There was a Q&A session at the end.

## Initial gathering of guest Open House volunteers

The initial meeting of Guest volunteers from the Volunteer Exchange Programme was scheduled separately, as they arrived after the time of the already arranged initial gathering of volunteers. In the future, OHB will plan for there to only be a single gathering so all the

Approximate number of attendees:

5 guest volunteers and 7 local organisers, 12 people in total.

materials wouldn't have to be distributed separately. On the other hand, each guest volunteer received personal assistance and greater attention, helping them schedule their guided tours accordingly.

## Midway gathering

Held midway through the festival, this event was informal and provided the volunteers with food and drinks. Since the core values of the festival are confronted by reality on the first

Approximate number of attendees:

**95** volunteers.

day, this meeting provided an opportunity to share ideas for the second day, troubleshoot, ask questions and so on. The meeting point was close to the main site of Villa Tugendhat.

# Different audiences in the local Open House festival



Mesita. Photo by Pavel Gurka © Courtesy of Spolek Kultura & Management

Open House Brno 2023 had 20 guided tours in 13 different locations in English.

Number of attendees for tours in English:  
**300–400**

Open House Brno 2023 had 2 guided tours in German that attracted 40 attendees.

33 locations were accessible for wheelchair users and there were 20 podcasts available for people with visual impairments and 50 subtitled video guided tours for people with hearing impairments.

## Programme for non-native speakers

During OHB 2023, a significant effort was made to integrate non-native languages into the core programme, particularly English and German, enhancing its accessibility and inclusivity. The selection of buildings for guided tours in these languages was primarily determined by the availability of English-speaking volunteers. To effectively engage non-native speakers in the festival's activities, OHB organisers partnered with the Brno Expat Centre. This collaboration facilitated the creation of guided tours in non-native languages, which were promoted through local universities and the festival's social media channels.

Despite some challenges—such as some of the tours not being fully booked, leading to their attendance by Czech-speaking locals—the initiative was largely successful. The involvement of key institutions like Masaryk University, CEITEC, FNUSA ICRC, as well as the South Moravian region and Brno city municipality representatives, played a crucial role in this success. These partnerships were instrumental in supporting non-native speakers and ensuring the festival's wider reach.

Organisers observed varying levels of interest in different tours, with some being fully booked within seconds, likely influenced by well-known speakers or locations. This underscored the need for a more generalised approach in some instances, ensuring that the festival remains appealing and accessible to a broad audience, regardless of their language proficiency or cultural background.

## Programme for people with disabilities

To enhance accessibility for people with disabilities at OHB, several practical measures were implemented. Information about the festival was made more accessible through the use of video and podcast tools, linked via QR codes at each site. A central map highlighted wheelchair-accessible locations and sites with alternative access points were clearly marked with an accessibility sign. Written versions of the guide texts were available at most locations for those who needed them. In an impressive display of inclusivity, volunteers at sites not initially intended for wheelchair access helped carry a few wheelchair-bound visitors through non-standard access points.

Additionally, volunteers participated in a workshop focused on assisting visitors with disabilities, ensuring they could fully enjoy the tours. A special event, a wheelchair-accessible tour, was organised at the Moravian Diet. The festival also began developing a partnership with the Teiresias Centre at Masaryk University, which specialises in supporting students who are disabled. This experience highlighted the need for alternative communication channels for visitors who are disabled and the necessity of allowing extra time for tours to accommodate slower movement. It also revealed challenges in booking tours, often complicated by individuals without disabilities, underscoring the need for more dedicated reservation systems for participants who are disabled in future events.

# Distribution

## Discussion: Moravské Square

An online discussion about the public space of the newly restored Moravské Square, whose urban and architectural design involved Janica Šipulová and the greenery of which was designed by Klára Zahradníčková. Part of the 'Women in Architecture' programme.

Link:

<https://openhousebrno.cz/cs/moravske-na-mesti-park>

Link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-XBnpNs-JDE>

## Guided tour: House of the architect Růžena Žertová

The idea of architects designing their own house reflects the OHEu annual theme of 'Building Futures Together, and during the tour, it was explained that a decisive starting point for the design of the house was the limited size of the plot and the assumption that the building would serve only a childless couple. Architect Růžena Žertová designed a ground-floor structure with an L-shaped floor plan and a flat roof. Part of the plot, bound by the perpendicular wings of the house, was conceived as an atrium and enclosed by a brick fence. Porous concrete blocks were used for the foundation, along with double-glazed windows (uncommon for the time) and partial underfloor heating in the interior, giving the building better thermal insulation properties. Diverted rain-water flows into the natural pool in the atrium. Cork floors, the wooden underlay of the ceiling and cream-coloured carpets are complemented with white lime plaster and tiles.

Link:

<https://openhousebrno.cz/cs/dum-ruzeny-zer-tove>



## Lecture/Discussion: Lilly Reich at Villa Tugendhat

This lecture by Barbora Benčíková on Lilly Reich's contribution to Villa Tugendhat spotlighted a neglected part of the work on the world famous-building

Link:

<https://openhousebrno.cz/cs/vila-tugendhat-prednaska-lilly-reich-a-zeny-v-architekture-a-designu>

<https://youtu.be/-ugfj7F74sU>

Link to the Open House  
Brno podcasts:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/45TRMaakN-ezv74pPtcMC4M?si=d-2006153cd7e47a5&nd=1>

Villa Tugendhat. Photo by Marty Morrissey.  
© Courtesy of Spolek Kultura & Management



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# Open House Dublin 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.24 Open House Dublin 2023
Legal Name:	Irish Architecture Foundation Limited
Date:	7–15 October, 2023
Name:	Open House Dublin
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	215
City:	Dublin
Country:	Ireland
Duration:	9 days

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Dublin 2023 attracted 20000 attendees.

The festival had 288 volunteers.

Open House Dublin 2023 was organised by 4 people: Festival Manager, Events Officer, Volunteer Coordinator, and Events and Bookings Assistant.

# Introduction

Presented by the Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF), Open House Dublin (OHD) is Ireland's largest festival of Architecture. In 2023, the Irish Architecture Foundation expanded the festival to nine days, increasing engagement, participation and impact. The festival kicked off with an Open House Junior weekend dedicated to young people and families, developed new modes of engagement with the 'Open Table' conversation series, journal articles and podcasts and brought together all four local authorities in Dublin to build a programme of tours, talks, exhibitions, films, podcasts and more across the city and county.

Open House Dublin offered a rich programme of tours and events, engaging with more than 2000 people. The festival hosted more than 600 tours and events in over 200 locations, from expertly guided tours of historical and contemporary buildings to a full programme of walking tours, exhibitions and activities.

The title for this year's edition was 'Dublin, we are in it together'. Open House Dublin delighted in and debated the daily energetic

exchange between Dublin and the people who built it. Dublin is a city and county built of rooms, buildings, streets, railways, pitches, parks and more. Together, these built parts of Dublin shape and guide the public and private lives of nearly one and a half million people. In turn, the city is formed and changed by millions of individual imaginations, countless conversations and ordinary, everyday actions. Through visits, talks, tours, lectures, workshops, podcasts and more, Open House Dublin revealed how the city and its residents reflect and depend on each other.

This year, there was a 41% increase in the number of recruited volunteers. It is the invaluable support of friends, supporters, building owners, architects, collaborators and volunteers that make Open House Dublin possible and it is with their continued generosity, expertise, passion and advocacy that the IAF will continue to deliver and grow the festival in the future, creating a space for all people to contribute, learn and have their voices and stories reflected in the creation of their city.

# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Dublin 2023 festival had 11 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

**56**

Approximate number of guided tours in these buildings

**930**

Approximate number of attendees

### List of buildings:

1. Dublin Waste-to-Energy (Covanta Plant)
2. EXO Building
3. College Crescent
4. The Rubrics Building
5. Shanganagh Castle Estate
6. Patrician Community Centre
7. Castle Ave
8. Rathcoole Courthouse Tour
9. Cornamona Court
10. ESB Headquarters, Fitzwilliam Street, D2
11. Hamilton Gardens

# The Rubrics Building



The Rubrics Building. Photo by Tra Nguyen © Courtesy of the Irish Architecture Foundation

The iconic Rubrics building is Trinity's oldest building, dating back to 1700, and the only surviving structure of the original Library Square. In 2023, Trinity College completed a project to refurbish and conserve the building. The project aimed to deliver a diverse range of accommodations, including 22 studio/one-bedroom residential units, 9 study bedrooms with communal facilities and research/study rooms.

The Rubrics building's renovation is linked to the OHEu annual theme as it provides a model for the sustainable preservation of historic buildings. The university's commitment to restoring and retrofitting this historic structure sends a powerful message to other institutions and heritage building owners. It highlights the potential for combining traditional craftsmanship with innovative technologies to create sustainable and energy-efficient spaces without compromising architectural integrity

# Dublin Waste-to-Energy (Covanta Plant)



Covanta Plant © Courtesy of the Irish Architecture Foundation

This building, which will become a gardening complex with rooms for storing plants to aid the maintenance of parks, was still in the early construction phase. It's planned to house a winter garden and storage space for ornamental plants brought in for the cold seasons. It will also contain a greenhouse where other exotic plants can be stored for use in parks during the summer.

Due to the building's specific requirements, the design features ample lighting for plants so indoor lighting will be generally economical, with reasonable quantities and easy maintenance. Modern plant cultivation solutions will be employed to preserve, store and propagate endangered historical park plant species. Solar panels will be installed on the roof for electricity generation and storage and greenhouse ventilation will primarily be through operable windows.

# EXO Building



EXO Building © Courtesy of the Irish Architecture Foundation

The landmark EXO building is the tallest commercial office building in Ireland. A unique engineering challenge, the building features a distinctive and highly innovative exoskeleton which forms the main structure, leaving a column-free floor plate at the perimeter and referencing the iconic blue gantries of the Dublin Docklands. The building features an extensive 1000 m<sup>2</sup> landscaped roof garden to which all tenants have access. Its pristine form responds to its unique location adjacent to the

O2 venue, extending the public realm on the ground floor under and around the structure.

A highly sustainable commercial development, it was the first building project in Europe to achieve LEED V3 Platinum certification ahead of practical completion. As an iconic piece of contemporary commercial architecture and the tallest commercial building in Ireland, it has already become a new urban marker in the developing Dublin docklands area.

# Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Dublin 2023 festival had 6 other activities from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number  
of total attendees:

**340**

## Activities:

### HOW TO BE ENERGY SMART AT HOME.

If people made simple changes to their daily routine and invested in energy-efficient appliances, energy usage could be reduced by up to 20%. Being mindful of when appliances are used and for how long, can conserve energy and help lower bills. This event brought together a panel of experts to speak about saving energy at home, accessing grants, understanding energy bills and smart meters, and much more. The event was dedicated to those who would like to reduce energy bills and make their home more comfortable over the winter.

### THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC SPACE—KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES.

This was a conversation about the future of sustainable travel and public spaces. This is an important junction for Ireland as the choices of mobility are influenced by emissions targets, transport policy and behavioural changes in how people shop, commute, carry out family duties and socialise. The event gave an opportunity to envision how residents should allocate street space and other public spaces for future generations.



## CLIMATE CHANGE & THE PUBLIC REALM— CHATHAM ST, CLARENDON ST, ANNE ST SOUTH WALKING TOUR.

Dublin City Council's City Architect's Public Realm Team provided a 'walk and talk' tour about how its work contributes to climate action. The architects discussed the climate-friendly design choices that play an important role in the development of their projects. The provision of a high-quality public realm has an environmental impact, whether through the environmental cost of the materials used or the resources needed for maintenance and renewal. The design of the public realm affects the city's ability to withstand or accommodate the impacts of a changing climate. Topics that were covered included planting and biodiversity, material specification and historic fabric, surface water management and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), mobility, energy reduction and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CLIMATE ACTION AND THE CITY.

'Ethically, an open city would of course tolerate differences and promote equality but would more specifically free people from the straitjacket of the fixed and the familiar, creating a terrain in which they could experiment and expand their experience.'—from Richard Sennett's book 'Building and Dwelling'. Taking this statement as a point of departure, the Irish Architecture Foundation invited visitors to a series of public conversations and speculations on Dublin as an 'open city'.

## RE-CREATE FAMILY WORKSHOP AT THE THINK BIG SPACE.

Re-Create is a hands-on, engaging and creative family workshop, suitable for all ages (ideally between 5–12, with a parent or guardian present). The main theme was the sustainable and imaginative reuse of existing buildings. Architect Evelyn D'Arcy facilitated this workshop at the Think Big Space in Tallaght, which is designed to provide young people from local communities a place beyond the classroom to explore and cultivate an interest in science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) disciplines. Their mission is to afford young people an opportunity to engage in a range of STEAM experiences while enabling them to think big and become the confident, creative, collaborative, risk-taking and innovative leaders of tomorrow.

## THE BOHEMIAN WAY.

The Bohemian Football Club, owned by the club's fans since 1890, has brought people together for 133 years, inspiring a sense of belonging and active citizenship among members, fans, players and the wider communities of Dublin 7. Launched in spring, 2023, the Bohemian Way is a new cultural experience that combines the rich history of Bohemian Football Club with a call to action on the climate crisis. At its heart, the Bohemian Way is a celebration of the power of community. Based around a free interactive tour app, the Bohemian Way introduced new works of music, poetry and art that comb through stories of the past to inspire a sense of shared purpose, reminding everyone of the incredible progress that can be made when people come together.

# Integration of the local Open House Festival

Other activities not related to the Open House Europe programme at Open House Dublin 2023:

1. The 'Open Table' series
2. 'Reimagining Elderhood' exhibition at Curved Street Temple Bar
3. 'PROSE & POSE: Poetry Yoga AMIDST THE TEMPLES OF THE MIND' event
4. NewNowNext
5. Reimagining our dream neighbourhood (family workshop)
6. 'Reimagining the Iveagh Markets' exhibition by local schoolchildren
7. Screening of 'Builders and Visionaries' produced by Ranelagh Arts Society in Rathmines Library
8. 'RÚN—IRELAND'S (IN)VISIBLE BUILDINGS PROJECT' research presentation by CoLab
9. 'There's No Place Like Home' workshop by Aisteach Queer Housing Cooperative
10. Dublin Open Form Pavilion of Air at Merrion Square
11. 'I AM AN ARCHITECT—Gender and Professional Identity in Irish Architecture' talk by Dr Dervla MacManus
12. Le Fanu Skate BMX and Play Park

# NewNowNext



NewNowNext. Photo by Ste Murray © Courtesy of the Irish Architecture Foundation

Presented by the Irish Architecture Foundation, NewNowNext is a season of live talks disseminating new ideas and ways of acting in architecture that are relevant to the world today and the society of the future. In October 2023, Open House Dublin hosted a special NewNowNext event entitled 'Cities Have

Feelings'. With participants including Finn Williams, City Architect of Malmö, and artist, poet and broadcaster Rhael "LionHeart" Cape from London, the evening unearthed through conversation and film how emotional, physical and social connections between people and their cities are formed and sustained.

## The 'Open Table' Series



Open Table: Housing and the City. Photo by Ste Murray © Courtesy of the Irish Architecture Foundation

As part of Open House Dublin, the Irish Architecture Foundation presented a series of lunchtime conversations and speculations on Dublin as an inclusive and 'open city'. At each conversation, a host and festival guests gathered around a table to eat together and discuss topics such as ageing, activism, housing and sports in the city. Strangers before the talk became equals at the table, and the 'Open Table' conversations celebrate the

individuals' half-familiar, half-anonymous status in the city, blurring the line between hosts and guests and encouraging fruitful sharing of stories and ideas. The talk series aims to consolidate the 'conversation' as a form of critical, intimate debate and exchange in architecture. These talks provided an equitable space for people to gather, listen and converse on topics relevant to the city and their shared, lived experience.

## 'Reimagining Elderhood' exhibition at Curved Street Temple Bar



'Reimagining Elderhood' exhibition. Photo by Ste Murray © Courtesy of the Irish Architecture Foundation

The 'Reimagining Elderhood' exhibition explores the future housing needs of middle-aged people in Ireland, and the role of community-led initiatives and architecture in providing innovative responses to this opportunity and challenge.

The exhibition describes the work and process of three architects—Studio Idir (Belfast), Islander Architects (Dublin) and Ailbhe

Cunningham (Cork)—who engaged with their local communities in Ballyhackamore, Balbriggan and Coal Quay respectively, to examine the experiences of ageing in these neighbourhoods. Through the project, they co-developed interventions in both public and private realms to improve this experience of residents and enhance their agency in the development of their neighbourhoods.

# Local volunteer activities

## Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

**180**

A volunteer induction handbook is provided for all volunteers. It details requirements for volunteers, information about their role, health and safety training, and information on the Open House Dublin festival for new and returning volunteers.

As part of the Volunteer Tour Guide Programme for Open House Dublin 2023, all tour guides and volunteers had access to bespoke training, designed in collaboration with Kate Drinane—Tours, Talks, Training & Interpretation Officer at the National Gallery of Ireland.

The training focused on audience engagement and tour delivery techniques, as well as accessibility awareness delivered by experts and activists in the field to ensure visitors felt welcomed and encouraged to attend.

The training focused on Irish Sign Language (ISL) interpretation and access, and assisting visitors who have a visual impairment.

Link to the training session:

<https://vimeo.com/870748935/36743bd7c0>

## Lunch meeting

Approximate number of attendees:

150



US Embassy Dublin. Photo by Ste Murray © Courtesy of the Irish Architecture Foundation

In September 2023, the Open House Dublin team organised a lunch meeting in the Dublin city centre. It was held between 12:00–14:00 at a local hotel, and the invitation went out to all of those interested in volunteering for Open House Dublin 2023. Tea, coffee and sandwiches were provided and the OHD team were present to provide information and answer any questions. This allowed the team

to personally connect with the volunteers and support newcomers. The feedback from attendees was positive and they said the meeting made them feel more confident for the weekend. On top of this, the meeting gave volunteers the chance to meet each other and form connections through their shared interest in the city of Dublin and its architecture.

## Other motivators for volunteers:



NewNowNext. Photo by Ste Murray © Courtesy of the Irish Architecture Foundation

Cinema discount vouchers were provided to each volunteer, giving them access to discounted tickets and coffee. Each volunteer was given an invitation to private tours of two buildings specifically created for friends of the Irish Architecture Foundation. This was to encourage them to get more involved in the organisation throughout the year. During the festival, they were also provided with a special wristband that allowed them priority access to events and tours when off duty.

To thank all the volunteers, a wrap party took place on the last day of the festival. The event featured a DJ, food, drinks and a dance class. This was a successful and appropriate way to thank the volunteers for their contributions, as well as allowing them to create a community together, which will hopefully bring them back as volunteers for years to come.



# Different audiences in the local Open House festival

Open House Dublin 2023 had 1 walking tour in Irish.

Number of activities that have been adapted for people with disabilities: 5 guided tours in Irish Sign Language (ISL) and 1 event with an ISL interpreter for people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment.

Approximate number of attendees in other languages:

40

## Programme for people with disabilities

The OHD team put in a lot of effort to develop the accessibility of the festival and strive towards a festival that welcomes everyone to experience the architecture of Dublin. This included specialised training on accessibility awareness in collaboration with the National Gallery of Ireland.

The event listings on the OHD website provide the following details for each building to assist visitors:

- Information about entrance accessibility, for example, if the building has steps and if so, how many, or which kinds of doors the building has.
- General description of the building's accessibility, i.e. whether there is a lift or an accessible bathroom.
- Information about any barriers to accessibility, in case any of the above are not available or if the building is a legally protected structure.
- All locations were supported by the visual interpreting service Aira, which was available for people who are blind or have a visual impairment to support their experience. Aira can assist with digital tasks including booking tickets for tours and events, and assisting users with using the OHD website. It can also assist visitors in navigating their surroundings while taking part in tours and events.

## Special guided tours

There were 4 ISL tours in this year's programme of events but unfortunately, only 2 ISL tours took place due to low demand. An ISL interpreter was provided for the NewNowNext 'Cities Have Feelings' event.

### 'Sensory Architecture' tactile tour for individuals who have a visual impairment

This tour took place at the National Gallery of Ireland and led visitors through an experience of a mixture of materials, texture, space and sound. In this 40-minute blindfolded visit, a member of the Gallery's guide panel led attendees around the Gallery's outdoor and indoor spaces, focusing on some of the most architecturally significant parts the Gallery has to offer. The tour was made accessible for people who have a visual impairment or use a wheelchair.

# Distribution

## Podcast series: 'What Buildings Do'

This curated podcast series was included in this year's digital programme. In the podcasts, host Emmett Scanlon speaks to a range of people about architecture in Dublin.

More information:

<https://openhousedublin.com/podcasts/>

## The Journal

The Journal was launched in 2020 with different articles published on the Open House website. The Journal is now an integral part of OHD's digital programme, allowing the festival to expand its reach. This year, over 15 articles were published related to topics of housing development, conservation and restoration, sustainability, education and Open House Europe.

Link to articles:

<https://openhousedublin.com/journal/>

## 'Site Specific Series'

'Site Specific Series' is a special collection of short documentaries that celebrate the architecture of Dublin, commissioned by the Irish Architecture Foundation and produced by Dyehouse Films.

This series is interested in time and the coexistence of old with new. The documentaries encourage viewers to learn from the past and care about the future. They send a message of hope that Dublin will be built with respect for its inhabitants, natural and historic environment, and a desire to provide for future generations.

More information:

<https://openhousedublin.com/?s=site+specific>

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# Open House Essen 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.33 Open House Essen 2023
Legal Name:	Forum Kunst & Architektur e.V.
Date:	7–8 October 2023
Name:	Open House Essen
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	19 (in addition to sustainable businesses and initiatives from the festival partner, EcoHopper App)
City:	Essen
Country:	Germany
Duration:	2 days for the main festival weekend, 2 months for Open House Essen +

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Essen 2023 attracted 1000 attendees

The festival had 10 volunteers.

Open House Essen 2023 was organised by 8 people.

# Introduction



Open House Essen 2023. Photo by Ravi Sejk © Courtesy of Forum Kunst & Architektur

Between October 7–8, the third edition of Open House Essen took place, featuring free tours, guided visits and a variety of other activities. From 10 am to 6 pm each day, buildings typically inaccessible to the public were opened for exploration, allowing visitors to discover architecturally intriguing places

through succinct guided tours. The event was not primarily oriented towards professionals, instead aiming to offer all citizens, regardless of their background, the opportunity to explore and get to know new and sometimes surprising aspects of their city.

In daily life, buildings and places are used without consideration of how their design influences people's lives. During the festival weekend, Open House Essen aimed to inspire enthusiasm for the human-built environment and raise awareness of its impact. The project adopted a pluralistic and multidisciplinary approach, striving to make the city, architecture and cultural heritage accessible to all residents, social actors, experts and laypeople. The main topic of the festival was redevelopment and the festival opened sustainably redeveloped spaces to the public by showcasing them as part of a VR Exhibition. This form was utilised to highlight not only buildings and initiatives from Essen but also the whole region of North Rhine Westphalia.

On the second day of the festival, attention shifted to the historically significant Essen city centre, focusing on a variety of interesting and inspiring buildings from different eras. The Forum Kunst und Architektur at Kopstadtplatz served as the information point and meeting place.

A supplementary programme, Open House Essen +, which included the VR exhibition alongside family workshops, lectures and discussions at the Forum Kunst und Architektur at Kopstadtplatz extended the festival's impact beyond the weekend.

During the festival, 19 locations were opened. In addition to these, visitors were encouraged to explore places listed on the EcoHopper App, a regional platform on the subject of ecology and sustainability as well as a festival partner, introducing 180 locations. One of the standout locations was the old printing house, drawing architecture enthusiasts, local residents and former employees who shared stories from 20 years ago when the printing house was one of Germany's largest facilities of its kind.

The most popular event was a gathering held in a mosque, where people could enjoy traditional food and tea with those involved in the mosque before exploring the building. Both the printing house and the mosque filled us with pride, showcasing the significance of Open House Essen in disseminating knowledge about sustainable architecture and bringing together individuals from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds.

A total of 10 volunteers and 8 professionals were involved in the organisation of the festival. All tour guides worked on a voluntary basis.

# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Essen 2023 festival had 8 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme for 2023: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

**14**

Approximate number of guided tours in these buildings

**480**

Approximate number of attendees

List of buildings:

1. Gasometer / Urban Gardening Lab / ADPT House
2. Direktion Zeche Zollverein
3. Motel One
4. Heilig-Geist-Kirche
5. Ayasofya Mosque
6. Konsumreform Shop
7. Former WAZ printing house
8. Frei.Raum



# Gasometer / Urban Gardening Lab / ADPT House



Gasometer. Photo by Silke Ladnar © Courtesy of Forum Kunst & Architektur

The gasometer is located at the UNESCO Zollverein Sire, an internationally regarded example of sustainable architecture and redevelopment of post-industrial heritage. Apart from the location, inside the gasometer stands an innovative, cuboid modular space with a cork look and floor-to-ceiling windows. Interested companies and organisations can use it as a workspace. Natural materials such as clay keep the module cool at high temperatures. According to the developers, Essen-based start-up Futur2K GmbH and Arup Deutschland GmbH, the cycle-based prototype can be used in the long term and variably like a Lego building block, demonstrating the opportunities of circular value creation. The modular space is the test building block for a reusable building system called ADPT. Also, an urban gardening project is located inside the space.

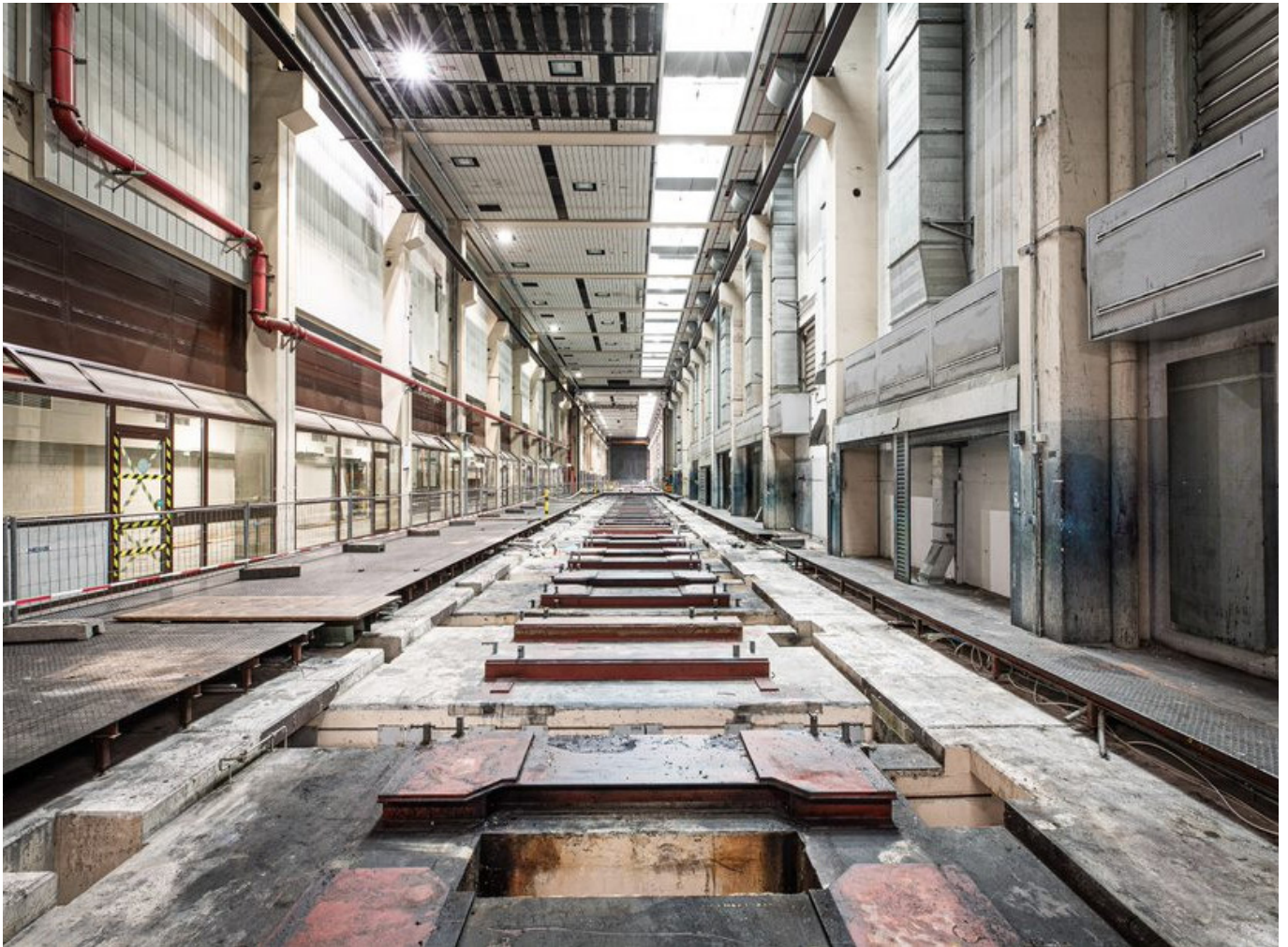
# Direktion Zeche Zollverein



Direktion Zeche Zollverein. Photo by Jochen Tack © Courtesy of Forum Kunst & Architektur

The building is also located at the UNESCO Zollverein Site. The management building, a two-storey brick building in neo-baroque style, was built in 1906 according to plans by the Stolze architectural office. After its completion, it was home to the management and, from 1920 to 1986, the administration of the Zollverein colliery. The building was also home to the mine surveyor's office, which determined the boundaries of minefields. After extensive redevelopment, the Zollverein Foundation moved into the directorate in April 2013. It is a great example of sustainable redevelopment and reuse of existing buildings.

## Former WAZ printing house



Former WAZ printing house. Photo by Greyfield Group © Courtesy of Forum Kunst & Architektur

The former printing plant of the FUNKE Media Group, on a site of around 37,000 m<sup>2</sup> near Essen's city centre, has a special significance for many local residents. This is where WAZ—Germany's largest regional newspaper—was printed for decades. The Essen-based real estate project developer Greyfield Group is developing the existing building in line with current requirements, which specify 25,000 m<sup>2</sup> of warehouse and logistics space and around 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> of office space in an integrated administrative unit. The building will continue its life, supplying people in the future and protecting the environment and climate. Upon completion, it will be possible to see transparent measurements of the building's climate impact online, along with a life cycle CO<sub>2</sub> certificate.

# Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

Open House Essen 2023 festival had 2 other activities from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number  
of attendees in total:

**1100**

## Activities:

### CITY OF FUTURE EXHIBITION.

The City of Future Exhibition marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Forum Kunst & Architektur e.V., kicking off the OHEu annual theme and taking place between October 8–29, 2023. The exhibition explored personal visions of contrasts such as open space/confinement, green/grey, awakening/demolition, tradition/modernity, integration/exclusion, densification/emptiness, open space/structure, sustainable and organic/just concrete. It delved into questions about how people want to live and how architecture and art can respond to social challenges, improving people's quality of life. The creative processes influencing the living space of the future were also a focal point. Addressing the comfort factor, the exhibition examined how art and culture can respond to the needs of modern lifestyles and how residents can creatively influence their everyday, local environment.

### 'THE KOPSTADTPLATZ IN ESSEN FROM THE COLOSSEUM TO THE FORUM' LECTURE BY BDA.

This public lecture with international guests and citizens was hosted by BDA (Federation of German Architects), exploring the beginning, present day and the future of the Kopstadtplatz (Kopstadt Square), where Forum Kunst und Architektur e.V. has its headquarters.

# Integration of the local Open House Festival



Open House Essen 2023. Photo by Ravi Sejk © Courtesy of Forum Kunst & Architektur

## Bushaltestelle Aktion

Workshops with architect Ursula Thielemann attracted young people and local residents to Katernberger Markt, the social hotspot in Essen. The workshops were connected to community building and making common spaces more comfortable, using the space of the bus stop. It was an architecture and art performance, in line with the annual theme of sustainability, demonstrating the possibilities of improving spaces in a DIY way.

## Ayasofya Moschee

During an event in a mosque, people had the opportunity not only to see the redeveloped sacred space but also to get to know another culture through the stories of Turkish citizens coming to Essen in the 1960s. The Ayasofya Mosque is a place of prayer, community, education and cultural exchange. It plays a central role in the lives of people in Essen and promotes better understanding and respect between different cultures and religions.

# Local volunteer activities



Open House Essen 2023. Photo by Madien Malocher © Courtesy of Forum Kunst & Architektur

## Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

10

Open House Essen volunteers had three meetings with the Senior Project Manager in German and the volunteers coming for the Volunteer Exchange Programme were trained before the festival in English, receiving

information on the buildings and festival. As they arrived in Essen, they had an additional meeting on the evening before the festival to learn about the experiences of local volunteers and receive advice.

# Volunteers' party

Approximate number of attendees:

10



Volunteers' party. Photo by Madien Malocher © Courtesy of Forum Kunst & Architektur

The party was planned as a networking get-together, with music and catering, where festival volunteers, partners and organisers shared their experiences, thoughts and feedback, while also making contacts for

the future. This event helped encourage people to become future volunteers and spread information about the open call for the Volunteer Exchange Programme.

# Different audiences in the local Open House festival



Open House Essen 2023. Photo by Ravi Sejk © Courtesy of Forum Kunst & Architektur

Open House Essen 2023 had 2 guided tours in English, with 70 visits/attendees. 1 guided tour was in Turkish 1 guided tour was in Arabic.

Motel One was selected as the location for a guided tour in English, created by one of the volunteers on exchange from Dublin. It was chosen due to its location in the city centre, relevance to the annual theme and interest

from an international audience that was coming to Essen for a gaming fair. Another location was the mosque of the Turkish community, where visitors could talk with the community in a few languages. There were also workshops with architects at the Katernberger Markt, where many non-German-speaking residents live. This event was highlighted in our flyers.



# Distribution

## VR Exhibition: Sustainable Architecture

This exhibition offered its visitors the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the various aspects of sustainability in architecture. It included numerous exciting, realised and planned examples on topics such as the choice of suitable materials, energy-efficient technologies, and innovative concepts for a resource-saving and resource-conserving use of space and infrastructure. Visitors to the exhibition could not only learn but also discuss and exchange ideas. It encouraged active

participation in the discussion and the sharing of questions and thoughts with the organisers and other visitors.

The exhibition was a joint edutainment project by Daniel Gugitsch / Open House Essen and Olivér Szabó, Managing Director of the agency greencentive and inventor of the app EcoHopper ®. The exhibition will remain open until 12.2024.

Link to the exhibition: <https://hubs.mozilla.com/TANcAZ9/soulful-rewarding-roundtable>

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# Open House Milan 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.18 Open House Milano 2023
Legal Name:	Open House Milano
Date:	12 –13 May 2023
Name:	Open House Milan
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	120
City:	Milan
Country:	Italy
Duration:	2 days

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Milan 2023 attracted 18000 attendees: 7000 men and 11000 women.

In terms of volunteers, the festival had 40 men and 70 women; 110 volunteers in total.

Open House Milan 2023 was organised by 2 men and 5 women; 7 people in total.

# Introduction

Since the start of large urban redevelopment projects that are reconfiguring the city to the private dimension of homes and studios, Open House Milan (OHM), now in its eighth edition, has become one of the most acclaimed moments in the programme of city events, including participants who work with topics ranging from architecture to urban planning, design and interiors. The common thread between this network is the story of the city, its spaces and its composite skyline, which is being rapidly renewed. A narrative that this year highlighted was the signs of a new design sensitivity—virtuous practices that arise from a renewed fertility of thought. This was celebrated as ‘URBAN HUMANISM’, the theme of Open House Milan this year, as it signifies a rebirth that affects the lifestyles of Milan’s inhabitants in various ways. During the

eighth edition, 120 sites were opened thanks to a network of around 200 volunteers that OHM trains and nurtures throughout the year, demonstrating that the festival is both of the city and for the city.

One of the most popular buildings that opened their doors this year was Monterosa91, an iconic piece of Milanese architecture, created by Renzo Piano Building Workshop, that has recently been refurbished and opened to the city once again. The programme also spotlighted issues of sustainability and showcased new design methods for architecture with less impact on the environment. At the same time, a multifaceted programme provided a complete vision of Milan, from the past to the future.

# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Milan 2023 festival had 6 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme for 2023: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

**46**

Approximate number of guided tours in these buildings:

**650**

Approximate number of attendees

### List of buildings:

1. ARIA: da ex macello al progetto del nuovo quartiere carbon negative
2. Open 336
3. Regus de Castilla / Il Rasoio
4. NTT Data Milano HQ
5. VP 22
6. Antares hotel concorde

## ARIA: da ex macello al progetto del nuovo quartiere carbon negative



ARIA: Ex Macello. Photo by Luca Rotondo © Courtesy of Open House Milano

ARIA is the winning project of the 'Reinventing Cities' international competition at the disused site of Ex Macello. ARIA will be the first carbon-negative district in Milan and the most important project for social housing in Italy. The project contract has been signed and the district will be developed by Onøhetta Oslo AS, Barreca & La Varra, CZA—Cino Zucchi Architects, Stantec and Fondazione Housing Sociale. The building was chosen for OHM because it is still a construction site and offered the opportunity to show what is going to happen in this area of the city. All the visits have been guided by some of the involved architects (Barreca & Lavarra and Fondazione Housing Sociale).

# Open 336



Bicocca 336. Photo by Luca Rotondo © Courtesy of Open House Milano

The new office building in Viale Sarca is a contemporary version of local architectural archetypes, managing to remain in continuity with the development of the surrounding Bicocca district, the colours of which the building has absorbed in the façade structure; the very design of the façade summarises and interprets the morphological elements of the surrounding buildings. The building shows attention to the environment and the surrounding landscape through the exaltation of differences and the encouragement of a spatial design philosophy increasingly open to hybridization. The mostly open-space offices become large, shared spaces through balconies and large openings to the outside that offer telescopic views for their occupants. Open 336, created by Park Associati, is a LEED Platinum Building, with net carbon zero emissions.

# Regus de Castilla / Il Rasoio



De Castillia. Photo by Luca Rotondo © Courtesy of Open House Milano

A myriad of triangular glass elements crossed by diagonal metal lines covers the two V-shaped volumes of De Castillia 23, embracing the protruding terraces on each floor. 1100 m<sup>2</sup> of dynamic glass structures create ever-changing games of light. Progetto CMR has re-designed a characterful architectural site that is in dialogue with the surrounding, innovative context of Porta Nuova. The glass second skin ensures the diffusion of natural light into the buildings, significantly reducing the use of artificial lighting during working hours. The photovoltaic system built into the roof produces clean energy, avoiding the emission of 13 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere every year. Heating and cooling are ensured by heat pumps using groundwater, utilising geothermal energy without releasing pollutants.



# Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Milan 2023 festival had 1 other activity from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number  
of attendees in total:

60

The talk 'New Urban Design: Adaptable Urban Landscape' started from the assumption that the image of the city (or rather the urban landscape), environmental balance and quality of life find their most immediate expression in the quality of public spaces because they are flexible, always present and belong to everyone. It also highlighted how continuously transforming spaces become adaptable in the new hybrid dimension of the physical and digital city. An urban intervention is understood as a collective artefact in constant transformation, within a process of the continuity of the communities that inhabit it.

# Local volunteer activities

## Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

70

There were a couple of meetings dedicated to volunteers, in-person and online, where the 2023 edition of OHM and the activities to be carried out were presented, alongside an introduction to the 2023 OHEu annual theme. Part of the meeting was dedicated to exchanges between expert volunteers and new ones to better understand the desired results and share their previous experiences. An additional event was held at NABA Academy for recruiting students as volunteers.

## Volunteers' party

Approximate number of attendees:

70

The volunteers' party was a moment of reflection and a toast to the recently finished edition. The occasion was also a moment to collect feedback and receive impressions from the volunteers the organisers couldn't reach before. It was also a moment to increase the sense of community and feel more united.

# Guided tour: ARIA Ex Macello



ARIA: Ex Macello. Photo by Luca Rotondo © Courtesy of Open House Milano

An exclusive guided tour, held by the architects of Barreca & Lavarra, dedicated to the volunteers who couldn't see the project during the festival weekend.

It was an occasion to explore and better understand one of the most important regeneration projects in Milan.

# Different audiences in the local Open House festival



De Castilla. Photo by Luca Rotondo © Courtesy of Open House Milano

Open House Milan 2023 had 7 buildings that had guided tours in English that had approx. 30 visits.

## Programme for non-native speakers

This year, Open House Milan focused exclusively on communicating in English with

visitors who didn't speak Italian. All content was also written in English on the website. Several non-English speakers wanted to join the festival as volunteers and for the next edition of the festival, a greater effort will be put into encouraging them to have a more relevant part in the festival to spread the voice of the festival and provide guided tours in a wider range of languages.

# Distribution

## Video interviews

OHM TV opened with two video interviews related to a couple of projects displayed during the event. The interviews were dedicated to presenting relevant regeneration projects in Milan.

### Interview with Umberto Lebruto about the Scalo Farini Project

In this interview, Umberto Lebruto, CEO of Fs Sistemi Urbani, offered a preview of the future of Scalo Farini, an urban regeneration initiative spanning 468,000 m<sup>2</sup> which could be visited during the OHM 2023 weekend.

Link to the interview:

<https://www.openhousemilano.org/ohm-tv/ohm2023scalo-fariniintervista-umberto-lebruto-ad-fs-su>

### Monte Rosa 91 | un nuovo campus urbano a Milano

Among the eagerly anticipated previews of the eighth edition, Monte Rosa 91 emerged as the most awaited, marked by its extraordinary unveiling during Open House Milan. This remarkable event provided attendees with the unique opportunity to step inside the historic Milanese complex, envisioned by Renzo Piano in 2003, even before its official inauguration, which was slated for June 2023. Through a collaborative effort with AXA Investment Managers, the primary partner of the eighth edition of Open House Milan, visitors were granted access on Saturday, May 13, to explore the soon-to-be-reopened urban campus. Renzo Piano Building Workshop spearheads the redevelopment project, aiming for historical and stylistic continuity. The objective is to establish a new multi-functional centre seamlessly integrated into the surrounding urban landscape which is welcoming and accessible to citizens.

Link to the interview:

<https://www.openhousemilano.org/ohm-tv/monte-rosa-91-un-nuovo-campus-urbano-milano>

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# Open House Lisbon 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.12 Open House Lisboa 2023
Legal Name:	Associação Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa
Date:	12–13 May, 2023
Name:	Open House Lisbon
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	73 buildings
City:	Lisbon
Country:	Portugal
Duration:	2 days

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Lisbon 2023 attracted 28929 attendees: 11572 men and 17357 women.

In terms of volunteers, the festival had 73 men and 170 women; 243 volunteers in total.

Open House Lisbon 2023 was organised by 6 men and 12 women; 18 people in total.

# Introduction

In 2023, Open House Lisbon (OHL) focused on the life cycle of buildings—birth, life, decline and rebirth—delving into the city’s architectural ecosystem and contributing to its urban vitality through a multifaceted approach. Emphasising the coexistence of voids, construction, buildings and ruins, the festival celebrated transformations, repairs and the addition of new layers over time. This approach highlighted the importance of Lisbon’s heritage and sustainable practices tailored to the local context.

The theme for OHL’s 12th edition was ‘Time Matters’, inviting everyone to explore the many lives of buildings with great success. 28929 entries were registered across 73 selected spaces, in a programme that included 5

outdoor walks (1 of them was an audio tour), 5 ‘Junior’ activities for children, 11 ‘Plus’ activities such as exhibitions and lectures, as well as 2 sensorial visits for people who are blind or visually impaired and a tour with a Portuguese Sign Language interpreter for people who are deaf.

The programme had several highlights, offering unique opportunities such as visiting spaces under construction like CAM and the extension of the Gulbenkian Gardens, or the two guided tours of an affordable housing building led by an expert from Lisboa E-Nova, an Energy and Environment Agency whose purpose is to promote the sustainable development of Lisbon and its metropolitan area. These visits were a success, with a huge attendance.



# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Lisbon 2023 festival opened 73 spaces showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

In this edition of OHL, the annual theme of OHEu was explored transversally through the concept brought by the commissioning team—the Embaixada studio—which invited the public to discover the birth, life, decline and rebirth of buildings. The selection of 73 spaces aimed to show examples that clearly mirrored the different stages of a building's life: the 'Void' before it has been built, the process of 'Construction', the finished work of the 'Building' and the 'Ruin' born from disuse. In the words of the commissioners: 'Urban vitality is made up of the different moments of this continuous flow, and there is no greater sustainability than the cyclical renewal of the use we give to the architecture we inhabit.'

### List of buildings:

1. Vale de Alcântara/  
Expansion of the Metro  
Network
2. CAM and the Gulbenkian  
Garden Extension
3. Affordable Housing  
at Avenida das Forças  
Armadas
4. Teatro Thalia

## Vale de Alcântara/ Expansion of the Metro Network



Vale de Alcântara. Photo by Atelier Aires Mateus © Courtesy of Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa

Alcântara and its valley have always been a city area undergoing major transformations where infrastructures become visible—the aqueduct in the 18th century, the road structures of Duarte Pacheco in the 20th century, the passage of the railroad and, more recently, the unobtrusive wastewater treatment plant. This area, apparently orderly and full of functions, nevertheless remains a space of opportunity and expansion for Lisbon; if not in terms of buildings, with meanings and connections. There is currently another major public infrastructure project underway, the extension of the Metro network, and with it comes the promise of a new station and intermodal connection that will transform the neighbourhood and the city.

# CAM and the Gulbenkian Garden Extension



CAM and the Gulbenkian Garden Extension. Photo by Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian © Courtesy of Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa

This project by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma is still under construction and it was one of the most coveted spaces to visit. For security reasons, it was only possible to offer the public four tours for 20 people each.

The remarkable Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian complex, the outcome of a close interdisciplinary collaboration between architecture and landscape architecture, was extended for the first time in the 1980s and is once again undergoing renovation. The proposal for Centro de Arte Moderna is inspired by 'Engawa', an area sheltered under a canopy typical of traditional Japanese houses and considered neither interior nor exterior. This new element, a filter between the building and garden, is a social space for visitors that adds a new way of experiencing culture outdoors.

The park's expansion to the south proposes a new landscape front with an urban forest, which at the same time redefines circulation and creates new connections to the city, as an invitation for visitors to wander and discover a secret gem at every turn: from clearings and meadows to rain gardens and small pavilions.

# Affordable Housing at Avenida das Forças Armadas



Affordable Housing at Avenida das Forças Armadas. Photo by Susana-Rato © Courtesy of Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa

During the weekend of OHL, 18 guided tours of this project attracted 241 attendees. This major intervention for five housing blocks and a parking lot on Avenida das Forças Armadas, part of the Operação Integrada em Entrecampos, was launched in 2018 by the Lisbon City Council. Defined around a public garden, it continues the Lisbon Public Urbanization Company's (EPUL)' surrounding constructions from 2005 to allow a pedestrian connection to the university campus through garden areas. The construction of new housing at controlled costs promotes sustainability, governed by principles of functionality and the economy of means, developing optimised forms of spatial, structural and infrastructural design. The pilot building served as a trial for the implementation of these methodologies and is already inhabited. Two other lots have been completed and the last one is under construction, with a total operation of 45,000 m<sup>2</sup> of housing.

# Teatro Thalia



Teatro Thalia. Photo by DMF © Courtesy of Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa

Built by the Count of Farrobo in the Quinta das Laranjeiras area, now the Zoological Garden, Teatro Thalia shares features with Teatro D. Maria II, in particular resemblances on the façade. The original building burnt down in 1862 and was only restored 150 years later, in a gesture that is as delicate as it is hard, engraving in the material the traces of the passage of time, destruction and reconstruction. Perhaps ironically but not naïvely, the inscription on the frieze reads 'hic mores hominum castigantur' (Eng. here, the customs of men shall be punished). The ruined walls served as lost formwork for the application of concrete. The interior remained intact, and the volumes of the stalls and stage area were reconstructed. The remaining functions and infrastructures, organised in two bodies, close the patio and open a new front to Estrada das Laranjeiras. The materiality of the project contrasts the concrete pigment with the colour of the glass panels.

## Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

In line with environmental concerns, Open House Lisbon organisers replaced volunteers' t-shirts with vests made from recyclable materials, which can be reused in future editions, created by the award-winning designer Jorge Moita. Also, through a partnership, OHL were able to offer canteens to volunteers and experts, avoiding the use of plastic water bottles. Another partnership with Emel, an urban mobility company, offered volunteers 100 passes to encourage and promote the use of bicycles during the event.

Open House Lisbon 2023. Photo by Hugo David © Courtesy of Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa



# Integration of the local Open House Festival

Other activities not related to the Open House Europe programme in Open House Lisbon 2023:

1. Urban tours
2. Sound walk
3. Accessible tours
4. Junior activities
5. Exhibitions
6. Annotated tou
7. Debates
8. Performance
9. Photo Marathon

## Sensorial visits

Open House Lisbon is a place for everyone to meet and share and that's why this year's programme offered visitors the opportunity to explore the richness of architecture sensorially through touching the textures of surfaces, hearing the echo of footsteps, feeling the warmth of light, guessing the aromas of materials and sensing the size of spaces.

There were two accessible visits for people who are blind, have low vision or a cognitive impairment to experience architecture together in a unique way. On Saturday, visitors explored the diaphanous and generous environment of the Júlio Pomar Atelier-Museum, designed by Álvaro Siza, and on Sunday, they visited the Lisbon Astronomical Observatory. Both locations featured exciting visual descriptions and tactile models that the OHL team had lovingly constructed. For people who are deaf, there was also a tour of the Astronomical Observatory with a Portuguese Sign Language interpreter. Free of charge, the hour-and-a-half visits were devised by the Lisbon Architecture Triennale and Locus Acesso, a cultural accessibility consultancy company.



Open House Lisbon 2023. Photo by Carlos Costa © Courtesy of Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa

## The Invisible Noise of a Work of Art

This annotated tour of Camões Secondary School reflected on the value of works of art in schools and the impact on students and teachers who come across them every day. The site included recent interventions by Fernanda Fragateiro, Querubim Lapa and Pedro Tropa that questioned the appearance of masks covering the faces of statues during the pandemic, trying to understand their meaning and interpret whether they were a means of revealing discomfort, unease and isolation.

## Revitalisation of Urban Fabrics

Urban revitalisation requires understanding and respect for the local community, as well as a long-term commitment to generating vital and exciting neighbourhoods for the benefit of those who live in or visit them. Street commerce is a key component of healthy urban centres and contributes to the local community's optimism and sense of belonging. This debate explored the perspectives of the founders of Urban Fabric, Catarina Lopes, and Noz Arquitectura, Inês Sousa, featuring case studies on innovation and regeneration strategies.



# Local volunteer activities



Closing Party. Photo by Hugo David © Courtesy of Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa

## Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

145

During an event at the Ismaili Centre, the whole, extensive team of volunteers were given a presentation on the event, the concepts and themes, the parallel programme, sources of printed and digital information to support them, the use of vests that replaced the previous t-shirts, interacting with the public and supporting visitors with special needs.

## Closing party

Approximate number  
of attendees:

152

The party was held in the courtyard of the Lisbon Architecture Triennale headquarters, in a relaxed moment that brought together the commissioning team, volunteers, team tutors and coordinators, partners, specialists and owners. The aim of this gathering was to celebrate together and thank all the people involved in the event.

Closing Party. Photo by Hugo David  
© Courtesy of Trienal de Arquitectura  
de Lisboa

# Different audiences in the local Open House festival



Open House Lisbon 2023. Photo by Hugo David © Courtesy of Trienal de Arquitectura de Lisboa

Open House Lisbon 2023 had 19 guided tours for English speakers that attracted **360** attendees.

The programme included 2 sensorial visits, adapted for people who are blind, visually impaired or have a cognitive impairment, and 1 visit with a Portuguese Sign Language interpreter for people who are deaf.

## Programme for non-native speakers

The 7 buildings that offered visits in English were selected with their opening hours and the demand from the international public in mind. The schedule of each tour was set to ensure even distribution over the weekend.

A notice was placed on the OHL website's homepage with the itinerary of the visits, as a way of highlighting these visits and making this information easier and more immediate for the target audience. The English tours were also highlighted in OHL's social media channels and newsletters.

## Programme for people with disabilities

This programme was designed together with Locus Acesso, a cultural accessibility consultancy company. To promote greater accessibility and the inclusion of audiences with sensorial or intellectual disabilities, the programme included two sensorial visits, adapted for people who are blind, have low vision or a cognitive impairment, and a visit with a Portuguese Sign Language interpreter for deaf people. To carry out these visits, Locus Acesso provided specialised training for a group of volunteers. During the event, these volunteers mediated the visits in direct contact with the different audiences, supported by Locus Acesso. Tactile material (models) was also created to support these visits and deliver a better experience to the target group.

For people with reduced mobility, an evaluation was done on the degree of accessibility of the buildings from the programme, enlisting the help of specialist consultants. Buildings considered to be fully accessible were marked on the website and the map, allowing people with reduced mobility to better identify these spaces.

# Distribution

Sound walk: 'The Still Movement of Jardim das Amoreiras' by Anabela Mota Ribeiro

Jardim das Amoreiras became a captivating haven as visitors delved into the rich tapestry of its surroundings. The intricate journey of the sound walk led them along the tree roots, through lush canopies, introducing encounters with notable figures like Maria Helena Vieira da Silva and Arpad Szenes. Explorers immersed themselves in the whimsy of childhood imagination, guided by the insights of psychoanalyst João dos Santos. The grandeur of the aqueduct, a focal point, evoked a sense of awe. Closing their eyes, participants were encouraged to dream, engaging in the verbs of seeing and sprouting.

The square, a microcosm of myriad worlds, hosted a unique tour that transcended mere auditory experiences. The voices of Eugénio de Andrade, Fernando Pessoa, Ruy Belo and António Pinho Vargas intertwined with the melodies of Stevie Wonder and a harmonium played by Vieira, torn between the realms of painting and music. The journey encompassed diverse movements, associations, ruins and vacant yet poignant spaces. It navigated the seasons, from the aridity of emptiness to the blossoming of renewal. Amidst the stillness, participants discovered the ability to traverse vast internal landscapes.

Link to the sound walk:

[https://soundcloud.com/user-764843602/o-movimento-parado-amoreiras-por-anabela-mota-ribeiro?si=76bf6ca224cc4eefa9682f4dac89d14e&utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/user-764843602/o-movimento-parado-amoreiras-por-anabela-mota-ribeiro?si=76bf6ca224cc4eefa9682f4dac89d14e&utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

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# Open House Slovenia 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.9 Open House Slovenia 2023
Legal Name:	Afront, zavod za prostorsko inovativnost
Date:	14–16 April, 2023
Name:	Open House Slovenia
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	80
City:	Ljubljana, Maribor, Koper, Kranj, Nova Gorica and other locations in Slovenia
Country:	Slovenia
Duration:	3 days

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Slovenia 2023 attracted 2353 attendees: 897 men and 1455 women.

The festival had 200 volunteers.

Open House Slovenia 2023 was organised by 5 people.

# Introduction

The Open House Slovenia (OHS) festival took place between April 14–16, 2023. The festival opened the doors of remarkable pieces of architecture for the fourteenth time and offered a varied selection of new, renovated and important buildings, which visitors were able to see for free under the expert guidance of architects, owners and users.

This year's festival took place under the title 'Commitments of Architecture'. The title aimed to highlight the power and responsibility of architecture in the creation of new spatial, social and economic models. The festival encouraged more inclusive discussions about architecture and strengthened the role of architecture as a carrier of positive change in solving important social and environmental challenges.

Architect and member of the OHS 2023 Expert Jury, Vlatka Ljubanović, spoke on the importance of OHS: 'Open House Slovenia is a festival of creativity. Rational thinking has been responsible for the transmission of knowledge throughout human history, while creativity and imagination are the driving forces behind new inventions. The environmental and social crisis we find ourselves in will be solved by reason, while the creative impulse will care for humanity and a socially inclusive society. I believe in the mission of architecture and its contribution to disaster relief, and this is why it will survive. In its own way, architecture will ensure the preservation and protection of nature and reduce disparities in a stratified

society. It is important the public feels the power of creativity in architecture, and this is what OHS is working hard to achieve.'

In 2023, the focus on sustainability emphasised building with wood and quality renovations of residential projects and sites of cultural heritage. Visitors were able to see more than 15 wooden buildings, which demonstrated a growing awareness of the importance of sustainable, well-designed buildings. With the right choice of wood, construction type and method, wooden buildings can fulfil the standards of modern sustainable buildings, decreasing environmental impact. Wooden buildings also have a positive influence on our well-being and offer a high degree of living comfort. Visitors were able to see the new Kindergarten Kočevje, Kindergarten Pedenjped, Interpretation Centre Ig, Stora Enso promotional pavilion in Planica and many more.

This year was also dedicated to the architectural heritage of Edvard Ravnikar, who is considered the most important Slovenian modernist architect. Thematic guided tours and urban walks were organised to show and explain his most important projects in Ljubljana, Nova Gorica and Kranj. They reminded us how architecture builds a country and a city. In Ljubljana, visitors to the festival were able to see the modernist designs of the Republic Square with the TR3 high-rise building, Cankarjev dom and the Modern Gallery.



# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Slovenia 2023 festival had 19 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

**37**

Approximate number of guided tours in these buildings

**1006**

Approximate number of attendees

In the OHS 2023 programme, projects could be divided into several thematic groups, depending on which aspect of sustainability they explored:

1. Buildings made of sustainable materials (mainly wood)
2. Buildings inhabited by programmes that operate sustainably
3. Buildings that have been adapted and renovated for reuse

## List of buildings:



Open House Slovenia 2023. Photo by Miran Kambič © Courtesy of Afront zavod za prostorsko inovativnost

1. NEU residences
2. Kazina Palace
3. Scout House
4. Na Stolbi office building
5. Renovation and extension of Kindergarten Pedenjped, Unit Učenjak
6. House MM
7. Single Family Building Polica
8. Interpretation Center Ig
9. Kindergarten Kamnitnik
10. Production Facility in Ribnica
11. The Štorta path
12. Karst House
13. Sabini-Grisoni Palace
14. The Homestead on Goli vrh—Cmokovina
15. Kočevje Kindergarten—Bee Unit
16. Promotional Pavilion Stora Enso in Planica
17. Renovation of two terraced Houses of the Housing Cooperative 'Progres-Mirje' Ljubljana
18. Bled House
19. Apartment Novi trg

# NEU residences



NEU residences. Photo by Megi Pilko © Courtesy of Afront zavod za prostorsko inovativnost

This building falls into the second aforementioned category. NEU Residences is a hybrid with 55 serviced apartments that cater to business and leisure travellers as well as guests on extended stays. NEU residences hold the Green Key certificate, which stands for their commitment to act sustainably in all areas of their operations.

# Kazina Palace



Kazina Palace. Photo by Špela Koščak © Courtesy of Afront zavod za prostorsko inovativnost

One of Ljubljana's historical icons, the Kazina Palace, was built as the palace of the Kazina Society at the beginning of the 1830s and is part of the category of buildings that have been adapted for reuse. It is considered one of the few preserved multifunctional public palaces and one of the highest-quality pieces of architecture from the first half of the 19th century in Slovenia. Shortly after its construction, it became the centre of lively city life and now hosts the University of Ljubljana's Academy of Music. In 2015, due to the Academy's spatial constraints, efforts to renovate and repurpose the building began. The large-scale renovation project included the renovation of the façade and the large hall, whose original painted ceiling was preserved. The entrance hall, staircase and corridors were renovated and individual elements such as stucco, paintings, floors, stoves, lamps and other decorations from the beginning of the 20th century were restored. The renovated rooms are complemented and connected by modern, functional architectural elements.

# House MM



House MM. Photo by Ana Skobe © Courtesy of Afront zavod za prostorsko inovativnost

This house in the centre of a small town near Ljubljana was one of the few, well-preserved typical houses in the neighbourhood, serving as an example of the first and third categories of buildings. The conservation of cultural heritage is crucial to preserving a building's spatial qualities—its space-time, multilayered built tissue and the identity of the environment. The designers working on House MM hope the building can represent an alternative, financially viable and sustainable approach to home renovation. They cleared out the interior space and preserved the elements that speak to the true ambiance of the old building. The new interventions are respectfully set apart from the old walls and can be distinguished by the choice of materials since the inserted volume is made of wood.

# Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Slovenia 2023 festival had 1 additional event dedicated to showcasing the OHEu annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number of total attendees:

**350**

## OHS Minifest: Ljubljana



Muslim center. Photo by Špela Koščak © Courtesy of Afront zavod za prostorsko inovativnost

The programme of this three-day, architecture 'minifest' aimed to raise awareness among local residents and the general public about the importance of well-designed spaces for quality of life and ensure greater accessibility to quality architecture throughout the year. During the minifest, the OHEu annual theme was connected with important public projects in Ljubljana that are crucial to the city's

public life. Additionally, the work of renowned architect Edvard Ravnikar was highlighted, signifying the importance of understanding modernist architecture for the future, alongside explorations of the issues surrounding the renovation of modernist heritage with various experts.

Under the guidance of architects, users and other experts, visitors to the OHS Minifest were able to see the renovated Kazina Palace, the Muslim Cultural Center, which has enthralled the festival's audience for many years, and the Rog Center, a creative centre that will soon open its doors with a renewed image. There was also a tour of OŠ Vič's Plečnik Prize-winning school library. As part of the programme celebrating Ravnikar's year (2023), visitors were able to explore the halls and backstage of Cankarjev dom, see Republic Square, enter the TR3 high-rise building and take part in a guided tour of Ferant's garden.

# Integration of the local Open House Festival

Other activities not related to the Open House Europe programme at Open House Slovenia 2023:

## Open House Awards

On Thursday, May 11, 2023, in the EDVARD space, the OHS Award was presented to selected architecture projects that were presented as part of Open House Slovenia 2023. All the projects included in the festival's annual programme were selected by a jury of experts. The mission of OHS is to present remarkable architecture and emphasise the importance of high-quality built space to the general public. As such, the OHS Award was not awarded by professionals but by the public, who could express their opinion on Slovenian architectural production and establish a dialogue with it.

Voting took place online between April 14 and May 3, 2023. Festival visitors could view 80 projects of various architectural typologies and vote for the best project in the categories of public and private facilities. More than 8,000 votes were received.

## Edvard Ravnikar's year

In 2023, Slovenia celebrated the 30-year anniversary of the death of architect Edvard Ravnikar (1907–1993). On the basis of the initiatives of heritage, educational and research institutions and individuals involved in the protection, research, presentation and awareness of Ravnikar and his legacy in Slovenia and abroad, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia declared that 2023 was going to be dedicated to Edvard Ravnikar. OHS joined this initiative with special programme highlights that presented the architect's most important works in various cities across Slovenia.

The festival also worked with various institutions like the Institute for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, who helped design the guided tour routes and lead visitors. There were some guided tours in autumn at the OHS Minifest as part of Ravnikar's year, in addition to separately conducted guided tours at the Kons TR3 exhibition in one of his buildings in December.

# Local volunteer activities

## Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

42

The goals of Open House Slovenia's training of volunteers were the improvement of public speaking skills and the building up of knowledge about Slovenian architecture. In the past, the main challenge every year has been attracting enough volunteers so in 2023, OHS organisers wanted to try something new.

This resulted in an excursion abroad for the entire OHS team in the nearby Italian city of Trieste (approx. 1 hour from Ljubljana), serving as training for volunteers. The whole day was spent visiting various architectural projects, important both from the point of view of architecture and for the Slovenian minority in Trieste, accompanied by an architect.

The excursion allowed the team to network and socialise with each other. Volunteers who have been in the team for a long time passed on their experiences to new recruits, who were able to ask the organisers questions about the festival throughout the day.

After the excursion, new volunteers were invited to join the organisers at a meeting in the office. The number of volunteers almost doubled in 2023, from approximately 25 to 50 volunteers. Also, each volunteer received a free ticket to the Museum of Architecture and Design and a ticket to the City Museum of Ljubljana.



# Different audiences in the local Open House festival

Open House Slovenia 2023 had 5 guided tours in English, which had approximately 150 visits.

## Programme for non-native speakers

5 international tours were included in the festival programme. It was quite a challenge to organise English tours and attract people to attend them since the local festival is visited mainly by Slovenians. Open House Slovenia collaborated with Erasmus programme representatives and prepared some information for them to distribute among students.

English tours were added on top of Slovenian ones and tour guides were asked to do at least one tour in English. On the website, it was clearly indicated which tours were available in English and when and how to visit. All English tours were conducted in Ljubljana and were a walkable distance from each other with the visiting times conveniently connected so the international audience could choose to visit all the tours.

## Programme for people with disabilities

In the festival programme, all projects were marked to show if they were accessible for people with mobility impairments.

Before the festival in 2023, Open House Slovenia organisers made a presentation about the festival at the Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and invited their network and representatives to visit the festival. The festival had some regular visitors who brought their own sign language interpreter. Before the festival, organisers made a presentation at the Slovenian Third Age University to attract old people to visit the festival. The main lesson for the future of OHS is to communicate more with different organisations that work with people with disabilities and try to present to them the benefits of visiting the festival. There are also discussions to organise dedicated tours.

# Distribution

Odprto Podcast: 'On the topic of Sustainability. Vernacular architecture and its reinterpretation'

In this episode of OHS's *Odprto (Eng. Open)* podcast, the organisers spoke with the creators of the Slovenian pavilion at the 18<sup>th</sup> Venice Architecture Biennale about their contribution. The curator of the pavilion, Lesley Lokko, wanted to explore the potential of architecture as a vehicle for changes in people's shared reality. The reality she wanted to intervene in with the pavilion is saturated with injustice, tensions and bad prospects and in her opinion, architecture has the potential to bring about a modern, diverse and inclusive society. For the Venice Biennale, she chose to centre Africa and the African diaspora, with decolonisation and decarbonisation as the exhibition's starting themes. The open call for the Slovenian pavilion was won by a joint application from Mertelj Vrabič Architects

and Vidic Grohar Architects, who are more interested in decarbonisation in architecture than decolonisation and approach the topic by exploring vernacular architecture through their fascination with a shepherd's hut on the Velika Planina mountain. They understand vernacular architecture as a living set of architectural principles that address the energy efficiency of buildings through spatial design, without the additional layer of high-tech devices that provide living comfort today, sharing a selection of examples that focus on heating and cooling. These ideas were reinterpreted through the spatial design of the pavilion, making the case for ecological construction based on architectural design rather than the current search for technological solutions.

Link to the podcast series:

<https://soundcloud.com/odprto/slovenski-paviljon-na-bienalu-v-benetkah>

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# Open House Stockholm 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.30 Open House Stockholm 2023
Legal Name:	Open House Stockholm
Date:	29 September–1 October, 2023
Name:	Open House Stockholm
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	67
City:	Stockholm
Country:	Sweden
Duration:	3 days

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Stockholm 2023 attracted approximately 11500 attendees: 4600 men and 6900 women.

Open House Stockholm 2023 was organised by 2 male and 4 female organisers; 6 people in total.

The festival had 60 volunteers.

# Introduction

The Open House Stockholm (OHS) festival returned for its eighth year, inviting visitors to three days of architecture, art and urban development. The festival took place from September 29 to October 1, 2023, providing a unique opportunity for the public to explore the city in a new and exciting way. The selected 67 architectural objects offered everything from guided tours to city walks, spanning across the entire Greater Stockholm area.

Some of the objects were brand new this year, while others reinterpreted familiar elements in the urban environment. The festival also explored transformations, events and

technologies influencing the city, including changing urban environments, digitisation and climate adaptations. All objects contributed to new perspectives, moments of amazement and an increased understanding of places and buildings, architecture and art in the visitors' surroundings.

Some of the themes explored at OHS 2023 were sustainability, architecture then and now, the growth of the city, infrastructure and urban life. The most popular objects were Forskaren, Reaktorhallen, Kungliga Väntsalen, Sergelgatan and Hötorgshus 2, as well as Vildmannen.

# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Stockholm 2023 festival had 28 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) Annual Topic: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

77

Approximate number of guided tours in these buildings

5037

Approximate number of attendees

## List of buildings:



Open House Stockholm 2023. Photo by Kärt Kaljuvee © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

1. KTH Royal Institute of Technology Campus
2. LINK Arkitekturs Stockholms office
3. Central Nacka
4. Restaurant Rummel—Wooden Pavilion in Hagastaden
5. Guided tour/city walk in Roslags-Näsby
6. Forskaren in Hagastaden
7. Co-housing Community Dunderbacken
8. Co-housing Community Sockenstugan
9. Meeting place Mariatorget
10. Co-housing Community Tullstugan
11. Cederhusen kv Bologna
12. PoMo
13. Fisksätra—People's House
14. Folkungagatan 44 in the Nattugglan block
15. The Oat Mill on Kvarnholmen (Havrekvarnen)
16. The Sustainability House (Hållbarhetshuset)
17. The Capsule (Kapsylen)
18. Stockholm Royal Sea Port (Norra Djurgårdsstaden)
19. Sergelgatan and Hötorgshus 2
20. The Sergel Pavilion (Sergelpaviljongen)
21. Skären 9
22. Odlalhop Tanto
23. Wisdome
24. Vasakronan's Head Office and Arena Sergel
25. Viktor Rydberg School Nacka
26. Vildmannen 7

# KTH Royal Institute of Technology Campus



KTH Royal Institute of Technology Campus. Photo by Kärt Kaljuvee © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

When KTH's campus opened in 1917, it marked not only a milestone in academia but also a commitment to sustainable practices that continues today. The campus, hosting cutting-edge research facilities and adorned with art from prominent artists of the time, has evolved into a model of sustainability.

Amidst the historic architecture and artistic legacy, KTH proudly showcases its award-winning sustainable campus plan. The School of Architecture, recognised with the Kasper Salin Prize in 2015, exemplifies KTH's dedication to harmonising technological advancement with environmental consciousness.



# Central Nacka



Central Nacka. Photo by Gustav Wändell © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

In Nacka's most central location, the dynamic intersection of nature's tranquillity and the city's heartbeat is characterised by the design and content. In the newly crafted urban environment, a harmonious blend of sustainable quarters, streets and squares emerged.



Upon completion, the area will accommodate 6000 residences and 7000 workplaces, encompassing sports facilities, schools, cafés, restaurants, commerce and even a subway station. A significant addition is the expansive Stadshusparken, serving as a substantial park for the community, all within walking distance of lakes, the sea and other pristine nature.

Visitors were guided through the developments already in place and ongoing projects, taking in the envisioned future for Central Nacka. The comprehensive presentation concluded with a 45-minute walking tour of the area, allowing participants to witness firsthand the integration of sustainable living spaces and vibrant urban amenities with nature. This event not only showcased what had been achieved but also laid out the blueprint for a balanced coexistence between urban vibrancy and environmental harmony in Nacka's central landscape.

Central Nacka. Photo by Amanda Leander  
© Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

# Restaurant Rummel— Wooden Pavilion in Hagastaden



Restaurant Rummel. Photo by Joanna Messmer © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

This remarkable wooden pavilion captivates with its exciting form and modern expression, standing as a testament to sustainability. Spanning 375 m<sup>2</sup> at the intersection of

Norra Stationsgatan and Dalagatan, owned by Humlegården Fastigheter and designed by Henning Larsen Architects, the pavilion embodies eco-conscious design.



Restaurant Rummel. Photo by Jens Aronsson © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

Its floating wooden structure, featuring tall glue-laminated timber columns and beams, sets an environmentally friendly tone. The use of cork-clad walls not only contributes to a warm ambience and good acoustics but also underscores a commitment to sustainable materials.

Beyond its architectural elements, the interior design by Millimeter Arkitekter, in collaboration with Restaurang Rummel, seamlessly blends modern furniture design with classic and characteristic restaurant details, creating a stylish yet inviting and cosy environment. As part of Humlegården's Norra Station initiative,

the building contributes to a lively quarter encompassing offices, restaurants, services and art. The adjacent square, set to become a welcoming and communal space, emphasises human interaction.

The commitment to sustainability extends to the overall project, with plans for two additional restaurants to open in spring 2024, aiming to establish the area as a new destination for food and beverages in Stockholm. Visitors were invited to appreciate both the aesthetic appeal and the sustainable ethos that defines this architectural gem at the heart of Norra Station.

# Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Stockholm 2023 festival had 6 other activities from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number of total attendees:

**340**

## Guided bike tour of Djurgården



Guided bike tour of Djurgården. Photo by Caroline Lilliebjörn  
© Courtesy of Open House Stockholm



Guided bike tour of Djurgården. Photo by Caroline Lilliebjörn  
© Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

During the guided bike tour of Djurgården, the guide, Hampus Busk, directly addressed various aspects related to sustainability. He focused on green areas, emphasising their importance for the city's ecosystem and air quality. Discussions about the city's green heart in the past, present and future

included insights into the preservation of natural habitats and opportunities for ecological sustainability. Additionally, the guide highlighted cultural sites and historical aspects of Djurgården, underscoring the significance of conserving and sustainably managing cultural heritage.

## Guided Bike Tour: From Quay to Quay with Hampus Busk



Guided Bike Tour: From Quay to Quay with Hampus Busk.  
Photo by Joanna Messmer © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

This tour not only showcased Stockholm's urban landscape but also promoted sustainable transportation with the participants cycling through the city. Starting in Frihamnen and ending in Tanto, the tour explored unexpected, unknown or overly familiar infrastructure. In addition to sharing insights into Stockholm's infrastructural history, Hampus also provided recommendations for key architectural objects to visit during this year's OHS festival on the subject of sustainability. The event encouraged active, green mobility and fostered a deeper understanding of the city's evolving urban sustainability.

## Guided Tour: Talk to an Architect

This event at LINK Arkitekturs Stockholms office during Open House Stockholm 2023 offered a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of architecture and sustainability. Aspiring architects and those curious about the built environment delved into the intricate process of transforming ideas into tangible structures. The event went beyond the stereotypical image of architects wielding scale rulers and ink pens, inviting participants to unravel the nuances of the architectural profession. Questions about the detailed planning process and the perception of architects merely creating 'white boxes' found answers during this engaging session.

Crucially, the event aligned with the theme of sustainability by showcasing LINK Arkitektur's commitment to eco-conscious practices. Visitors explored the spaces that were nominated in the category of sustainable interiors at the 2021 Dezeen Awards, where the dedication to high levels of reuse, renewable materials and flexibility was highlighted. By providing insights into sustainable design choices and innovative approaches to interior architecture, the event contributed to a broader understanding of how architects can actively shape a more sustainable future. It invited attendees to not only learn about the profession but also witness tangible examples of sustainable practices, encouraging a dialogue on the role of architecture in building a more environmentally conscious and resilient society.

# Integration of the local Open House Festival

During this year's festival, Open House Stockholm successfully opened two indoor swimming pools, showcasing the architecture of these buildings. The organisers found it incredibly important to include various parts of the city and its functions. Similarly, four schools were opened, further emphasising crucial spaces within the city. Among such other spaces were a thermal power station and a bomb shelter in a garage, which was one of the most popular objects during the festival. Some impressive buildings, such as Sweden's first reactor hall, were also featured; it is usually closed to the public and thus became one of the festival's highlights.

Organisers also incorporated a cluster of collective housing into the festival programme, showcasing a diverse range of housing options. All these objects were well-attended and appreciated by the public. To explore the theme of collectivity further, attendees had the opportunity to experience a co-working space for artists and craftsmen during the festival.

# Local volunteer activities

## Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

35

During an initial information meeting, volunteers received background information about Open House Stockholm, learning about its founding and affiliation with OHEu. They received details about this year's festival setup, including the number of showcased architectural objects, dates and so on. After this, volunteers received training on the OHS 2023 programme, themes, web navigation, and the general structure of the festival programme, including its geographical distribution, to ensure the volunteers felt familiar with the programme and the festival [as a whole.

Practical aspects were covered, such as promotional products and the guidelines surrounding them, along with the roles volunteers were going to undertake during

the festival. Various roles and general guidelines were discussed, outlining expectations and responsibilities. General tips were provided and different scenarios were discussed to address potential challenges, ensuring everyone felt comfortable and safe before the festival. The session also covered whom to contact in different situations. Furthermore, the process for scheduling shifts during the weekend and the associated rules were explained and demonstrated.

All this information was additionally distributed to volunteers via email and at the end of the meeting, there was an opportunity for questions on topics that may not have been covered. The meeting was held online via Zoom.



# Premiere event



Premiere event. Photo by Lisa Enbom © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

Approximate number of attendees:  
**35**

During the premiere event, volunteers had the opportunity to meet in person for the first time. At this event, promotional products were distributed and volunteers had the chance to listen to speakers and network with other, key members of the Open House team.

## SFX study visit

Approximate number of attendees:

30



SFX study visit. Photo by Natalie Kokkalis © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

In its ongoing commitment to fostering inclusivity and diversity, Open House Stockholm continued its collaboration with SFX (Swedish for newly arrived professionals). These SFX students, with backgrounds in architecture and engineering, had the opportunity to explore Open House Stockholm and participate in study visits to Vasakronan's headquarters and Arena Sergel. The addition of study visits and physical information meetings for SFX is a new initiative this year and there are hopes to continue and expand on this in the coming years. SFX aims to provide these newly arrived, professionally trained individuals

with insights into how the Swedish field and their respective professions function, ultimately reducing their time until employment. By engaging in the festival, these individuals expand their professional networks within the Swedish industry. The event began with information about Open House Stockholm and details about volunteering, finishing with a guided tour. Information was provided in both Swedish and English. The event itself was highly successful and well-received, with many participants becoming a part of OHS as volunteers.

# Thank-you event

Approximate number of attendees:

40



Thank-you event. Photo by Natalie Kokkalis © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

The annual thank-you event for OHS volunteers served as a heartfelt expression of gratitude and a means to foster unity within the group. The idea of this event stemmed from the recognition that the festival's volunteers are vital to its success. Organisers aimed to create a dedicated space to acknowledge volunteers' contributions and build a sense of community. The event featured a city walk in the spirit of Open House, followed by a gathering with

food and drinks. The feedback and attendance reflected the event's success, with volunteers expressing appreciation for the initiative. The event plays an important role in strengthening the volunteer community by providing a platform for connection beyond their roles during the festival. The success of this activity lies in its ability to go beyond a mere thank-you gesture and actively contribute to building a supportive and united volunteer community.

## Team-building events

Approximate number of attendees:

11



Open House Stockholm 2023. Photo by Rut Hagwall © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

Before and after the festival, team-building events were organised with the project team and area coordinators. Prior to the festival, they delved deeper into their responsibilities and roles during the event and played some games

for team-building purposes. In the post-festival meeting, the whole team of organisers and all the volunteers gathered to evaluate how things went and thank the volunteers for the additional effort.

# Different audiences in the local Open House festival



Open House Stockholm 2023. Photo by Klara Nordgren © Courtesy of Open House Stockholm

Open House Stockholm 2023 had 17 guided tours in English and 5 open houses with English-speaking hosts.

Number of activities adapted for people who use wheelchairs:

40

## Programme for non-native speakers

The selected architectural objects offering English tours were chosen by the exhibitors themselves; the festival's organisers assisted in coordinating the schedules to ensure they didn't overlap so more people could attend. During certain tours in Swedish, there were some visitors who only spoke English and initially asked if it was possible to conduct the tour in English instead. In all these cases, this worked out very well as a majority of Swedes are comfortable with English.

The festival's aforementioned collaboration with SFX is another prime example of OHS's dedication to making the festival more inclusive for non-Swedish speakers. On the website, festival visitors could filter the programme by language and see which language tours were going to be in.

## Programme for people with disabilities

Generally, Sweden has very good accessibility adaptation requirements for its buildings, meaning that, in most cases, buildings in the programme are accessible to many visitors. However, when it comes to city walks, this is not always guaranteed. It has been up to the exhibitors to determine the accessibility of their architectural objects.

The same filtering function on the website allowed potential visitors to verify which objects were accessible across three categories: 'not accessible', 'wheelchair accessible' and 'for the whole family', which referred to the possibility of bringing a stroller.

# Distribution

Joanna Messmer, Project Manager for Open House Stockholm, and Melker Ferdfelt, Area Manager and Exchange Volunteer, were featured on OHS ambassador Mustafa Sherif's podcast, 'Urbanistica Podcast'. In two episodes, they discussed how sustainability is reflected in this year's festival programme. They also delved into their experiences with the Volunteer Exchange Programme, which aligns with the annual theme of 'Building Futures Together'.

Link: 396: SWE Open House Stockholm collaboration within EU - Joanna Messmer and Melker Ferdfelt <https://open.spotify.com/episode/1U1zgWozqHI96xmBGVZu39?si=83eb67e662a94bf8>

Link: 397: SWE Programme points for Open House Stockholm 2023 - Joanna Messmer <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6fXfcmRQ4tpmB0CiT10lrP?si=e603e681de5b4a71>

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwO5suI9OuQFjwIT1rEmgUSRUOvOKptVR>

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# Open House Tallinn 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.27 Open House Tallinn 2023
Legal Name:	MTÜ Eesti Arhitektuurikeskus
Date:	7–8 October, 2023
Name:	Open House Tallinn
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	39
City:	Tallinn
Country:	Estonia
Duration:	2 days

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Tallinn 2023 attracted 6112 attendees.

In terms of volunteers, the festival had 33 men and 122 women; 155 volunteers in total.

Open House Tallinn 2023 was organised by 2 male and 5 female organisers; 7 people in total.

The number of festival attendees was influenced by a 2-day storm during the Open House Tallinn 2023 weekend. The Estonian Rescue Board asked people to stay at home during this time.

# Introduction

The fifth edition of Open House Tallinn (OHT) invited people to learn about the architecture of the city across 39 different locations. This year's tours were provided in fascinating locations which were not previously available. These exceptional locations empowered individuals to become more knowledgeable about their surroundings and the urban landscape.

The theme for this year's edition was 'Educational Space', therefore, a third of the programme was dedicated to the most popular gymnasiums and schools completed in 2023. Education, in itself, builds the future for the next generations and it is important to give meaning and function to the spaces where learning happens. The programme featured school buildings of various styles and periods with two of the major gymnasiums being opened only a month before the festival.

Half of the programme consisted of new spaces that had not been opened before, spanning locations from the medieval ages up to the present day, ranging from ministries, heritage sites, modern architecture, industrial areas and much more. This ensured that visitors could always find something engaging. On top of this, OHT 2023 included area tours and thematic tours to stimulate visitors in a refreshing way.

Over 360 tours in three languages (Estonian, Russian and English) were held to bring architecture to everyone. Tours were constructed with the help of architects, building managers and related stakeholders to be as inspiring as possible. The tours were provided by OHT's wonderful volunteers from different age groups and nationalities including exchange volunteers and people from underrepresented groups.

An old building of the water treatment facility that nobody knew of, a modern skyscraper with private office spaces, a new school building in the quiet and nature-rich district of the city or another skyscraper still under construction—these locations were the most visited and each provided rare and unique opportunities for visitors.

A new mini-lecture series was piloted with 4 architecture-related lectures about acoustics, sustainability, lighting design and inclusion. The lectures were recorded and will be posted with English subtitles to widen the reach. Additionally, the festival implemented a location archive on the OHT website in three languages so people interested in Tallinn's architecture could have a catalogue of fascinating architecture all year round in a digital format. This represents OHT's drive to develop and innovate each year to garner more interest in the field of architecture.

# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Tallinn 2023 festival had 12 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

**138**

Approximate number of guided tours in these buildings

**2574**

Approximate number of attendees

### List of buildings:

1. Skyon
2. Kadriorg Park's Orangery
3. Arter Quarter
4. Alma Tominga Building
5. Rotermann Ajamaja
6. TalTech Mountain House
7. St John's School
8. Estonian Academy of Arts
9. Pelgulinna State Gymnasium
10. Hundipea district and Paljassaare Harbour
11. Põhjala Factory
12. Baltic Manufactory

# Skyon



Skyon. Photo by Evert Palmets © Courtesy of Eesti Arhitektuurikeskus MTÜ

For this 26-storey office building to maintain a consistent indoor climate, the façade is designed with triple glazing, which saves on heating and cooling costs. Throughout the entire building, only LED lights are used, which are energy-efficient and help minimise light pollution. All common area lights are equipped with motion sensors to conserve electricity when they are not needed. Electronic faucets are used in all restrooms to ensure convenience and save water by up to 50%.

SKYON was constructed in accordance with the LEED Gold certification requirements.

# Rotermann Ajamaja



Rotermann Ajamaja. Photo by Evert Palmets © Courtesy of Eesti Arhitektuurikeskus MTÜ

This building, which will become a gardening complex with rooms for storing plants to aid the maintenance of parks, was still in the early construction phase. It's planned to house a winter garden and storage space for ornamental plants brought in for the cold seasons. It will also contain a greenhouse where other exotic plants can be stored for use in parks during the summer.

Due to the building's specific requirements, the design features ample lighting for plants so indoor lighting will be generally economical, with reasonable quantities and easy maintenance. Modern plant cultivation solutions will be employed to preserve, store and propagate endangered historical park plant species. Solar panels will be installed on the roof for electricity generation and storage and greenhouse ventilation will primarily be through operable windows.

# Alma Tominga Building



Alma Tominga Building. Photo by Evert Palmets © Courtesy of Eesti Arhitektuurikeskus MTÜ

The architectural design, inspired by user-centric and user-friendly principles, emerged from an international open call, won by the PLUSS architectural firm. The 11-storey Alma Tominga office building has been awarded the LEED Gold certification for energy and environmental sustainability, and solar panels have been installed here. The building is designed to be versatile, allowing it to be transformed into a hotel or apartment building by changing room layouts as needed. The building utilises green energy and benefits from the Utilitas district heating and cooling system installed last year. It houses office spaces, a car showroom, a clinic and a restaurant. The most eye-catching elements of the building include a 21-metre-high glass atrium and a tropical climate palm garden located next to the main entrance.

# Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Tallinn 2023 festival had 1 other activity from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu Annual Topic: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number  
of total attendees:

30

## Mini-lecture: 'The Essence and Direction of Green Technologies in Urban Space'

This mini-lecture was given by Mari-Liis Kell, who is Head of Green Technologies at Hundipea OÜ, with previous experience in climate change, emissions treatment and engineering; she is now a strong advocate for research and development in climate change adaptation. The idea of the lecture was to be brief, inspiring and informative, exploring questions such as 'What are green technologies? Why do we need them? Which direction should we move in?'. The lecture highlighted the value of green technologies in Tallinn, their impact and active initiatives to create a more sustainable urban space.



Mini-lecture. Photo by Kevin Loigu © Courtesy of Eesti Arhitektuurikeskus MTÜ

Through this series of 4 mini-lectures, OHT offered listeners valuable insights and introduced new perspectives to help them better understand how architecture and urban space impact their lives and the surrounding environment. This lecture in particular was selected because it foregrounds the OHEu annual theme and current technologies being used in Tallinn related to the idea of sustainability.

# Integration of the local Open House Festival

Other activities not related to the Open House Europe programme in Open House Tallinn 2023:

## Evening tours

### Koplikandi tour

The Koplikandi tour was a special event outside of the main programme, held collaboratively with Koplikandi Matkad. Registration for this tour was full within 15 minutes of opening and the overflow of interest was more than triple the capacity. The tour took visitors through the colourful and diverse history of the Kopli Peninsula, featuring unique buildings, local stories and views of the evolving Kopli area.

### Lighting design tour

The lighting design discovery tour in collaboration with the Estonian Lighting Designers Association was another special event outside the main programme that attracted interest beyond its capacity. The tour was an engaging walk through Tallinn's urban space, where various architectural lighting design techniques were explored. The aim of the tour was to draw attention to the impact of lighting design on the nighttime urban environment.





Lighting design tour Photo by Marina Karaseva © Courtesy of Eesti Arhitektuurikeskus MTÜ

# Mini-lectures



Mini-lecture. Photo by Kevin Loigu © Courtesy of Eesti Arhitektuurikeskus MTÜ

## Room Acoustics— What Do Spaces Tell Us?

In this mini-lecture, listeners explored the invisible yet crucial part of architecture that values the relationship between sound and space. The lecturer shared knowledge about the basics of room acoustics, how to perceive them and how they influence people in the space. Participants learned to listen to spaces and discovered what they had to say. The lecturer was Kaupo Kõrven, founder of Akustikainsener OÜ, who holds a Master's degree in Technical Acoustics with 15 years of experience from projects worldwide.

## How Can I Contribute to Changes in the Urban Space?

A mini-lecture about what a person could do to improve the urban space around them in their neighbourhood, Providing answers to questions such as 'What options might they have? Where do they start? How do they go about bringing these changes to life?'. The lecturer was Ave Habakuk, one of the co-founders of the NGO Elav Tänav and a democracy fitness trainer' currently working at the Tallinn Environment and Utilities Department.

## Architectural Lighting Design—Lighting as the Fourth Dimension of Architecture

In this mini-lecture, participants learned about light as the fourth dimension of architecture, after length, width and height, without which experiencing the first three wouldn't be possible. Also, the lecture provided an overview of the significance of lighting design and its impact on people's perception. The presenter for this lecture was Joan-Tähven Vene, board member of EVDA and specialist at Tallinn Municipality.

# Local volunteer activities

## Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

90

The general training event for volunteers caters mostly to newcomers and first-time volunteers, providing them with essential guidance on handling various situations in their roles, including public speaking and guiding. There are also specialised workshops for specific volunteer roles, such as photographers. This event serves as a crucial orientation for volunteers, highlighting event specifics, opportunities and key changes from the previous year and allowing them to address queries and prepare for potential challenges beforehand. Guest speakers are also invited to lead sessions during the event, particularly presentation experts.

One significant challenge is engaging long-time volunteers who possess comprehensive knowledge. In future editions, the aim is to make the training sessions more engaging and beneficial for these experienced volunteers.

Ultimately, this event allows for volunteers to dive smoothly into the organisation of the event and all of its elements, and strengthen the bond between the organisational team, volunteers and the festival.

## On-location training

Approximate number of attendees:

2–6



Thank-you event. Photo by Kevin Loigu © Courtesy of Eesti Arhitektuurikeskus MTÜ

These on-location training events are designed for volunteer guides to familiarise themselves with their respective venue, the tour route, managers, architects and other individuals specific to the venue. These people provide additional insights about the location and share interesting facts that might not be commonly known. These events are crucial

for volunteer guides as they significantly enhance their understanding of architecture and urban activities. The secondary objective is to encourage more participation from volunteers with specialised knowledge and continue ongoing connections with them to enrich the knowledge base of new volunteers.

# Cleanup event

Approximate number of attendees:

7



Thank-you event. Photo by Kevin Loigu © Courtesy of Eesti Arhitektuurikeskus MTÜ

Aiming to expand the urban environment and enrich one of the locations in the programme, an event to clean up an old, welded-shut bunker space was held. This initiative invited volunteers to actively participate in transforming the urban landscape and through unlocking and rejuvenating this space, add new dimensions to the cityscape.

Moving forward, OHT plans to explore further similar opportunities through collaborations with NGOs and institutions. These endeavours are envisioned to enhance programme offerings, foster community engagement and contribute positively to the city's evolution. Typically, these events are scheduled during warmer seasons to ensure optimal participation and effectiveness.

## Thank-you event

Approximate number of attendees:

**130**

The thank-you event for volunteers marked the conclusion of the Open House Tallinn weekend, aimed at expressing gratitude to volunteers, gathering feedback and fostering community interaction. This approach encourages volunteers to participate in projects they enjoy and contributes to the development of

the broader Estonian volunteer community. Since it was the first such event of this scale, its success is noteworthy. The event featured food, a cake, storytelling sessions and individual expressions of gratitude from the OHT team to each volunteer and staff member who contributed to organising the event.

## Guided tours for volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

**30–40 per tour**

Volunteers rarely get the chance to personally visit multiple buildings during the event, as they're occupied with assisting throughout. Moreover, there are no other chances throughout the year to explore these locations beyond the two-day festival. While some locations are more accessible than others, opportunities for individual visits remain

scarce. To address this, this year, OHT' initiated guided tours at locations from the 2023 programme outside the festival period. This addition aimed to enhance the motivational package for volunteers and deepen their understanding of architecture and Tallinn's urban landscape.

## Other motivators for volunteers



Thank you event . Photo by Kevin Loigu © Courtesy of Eesti Arhitektuurikeskus MTÜ

In addition to the previously mentioned diverse activities that support the personal development of volunteers, OHT provided a motivational package comprising a well-made t-shirt, a notebook, a uni PIN pen, a tote bag and a yardstick. There were also prizes from the festival's partners and sponsors that could

be won as part of a lottery during the thank-you event. All prizes were selected to be practical and sustainable. During the festival, each volunteer working on-site was offered a free, poke bowl lunch which was very popular based on feedback.

# Different audiences in the local Open House festival

Open House Tallinn 2023 had 52 guided tours in English and 45 guided tours in Russian.

Number of activities that were adapted for people with disabilities: 1.

12 locations were accessible for people who use wheelchairs.

Approximate number of visits/ attendees in other languages:

1694



## Programme for non-native speakers

The sole criterion for selecting buildings to offer tours in other languages was the availability of English- or Russian-speaking guides. Otherwise, there were no restrictions on choosing the buildings and the aim was to make every building accessible to everyone.

OHT has a Russian Communications Manager and several volunteers who assist with translations into Russian; approximately one-third of the volunteers this year had either Russian or other international backgrounds. Press releases were issued in both Russian and English, the entire OHT website was designed in three languages, and booklets included schedules in English and Russian. Moreover, there was an effort to reach out to communities with a more international base and engage universities with exchange students to disseminate information about the event.

The international tours, regardless of location, gained significant popularity, prompting requests for more tours in English and Russian than is currently possible. The primary challenge lies in finding guides proficient in non-native languages, which currently limits the expansion of these tours.

While there were some challenges in attracting participants to the tours this year, most were due to the significant two-day storm experienced over the weekend.

## Programme for people with disabilities

This year saw the pilot of a tour conducted in Estonian Sign Language, designed for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. The aim of the pilot tour was to understand the process and potential issues, and assess the feasibility of inclusivity. This tour attracted around 15 participants. While there were no other tours catering to specific groups who have disabilities, the OHT website indicated the accessibility of locations for participants using wheelchairs in the programme section, allowing visitors to filter accessible locations.

In the future, further incorporating individuals with disabilities into the OHT programme could be facilitated by either creating dedicated tours with registration for people with disabilities or by collaborating with institutions working with these communities who could support OHT in terms of attendance, communication and providing specialists to facilitate these tours.

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# Open House Thessaloniki 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.5 Open House Thessaloniki 2023
Legal Name:	Open House Greece
Date:	November 25–26, 2023
Name:	Open House Thessaloniki
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	71 buildings, 1 walking tour, 31 creative spaces and 2 video tours
City:	Thessaloniki
Country:	Greece
Duration:	2 days for the main event and 4 days of parallel events

# Festival participants



Open House Thessaloniki organisers. © Courtesy of Open House Greece

In total, Open House Thessaloniki 2023 attracted 9495 attendees: 3707 men, 5758 women, 29 non-binary people.

In terms of volunteers, the festival had 88 men and 412 women; 500 volunteers in total.

Open House Thessaloniki 2023 was organised by **6 people.**

## Introduction text

During the weekend of November 25–26, Open House Thessaloniki (OHT) returned for its 11<sup>th</sup> year with free tours of 71 buildings and places of architectural interest. The 2023 edition was a huge success, scoring 31631 visits. The programme featured public, private, modern and historic spaces such as monuments, schools, residences, hotels and offices. The public was guided around the buildings for free by the event's 500 volunteers. This year's Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme was 'Building Futures Together' and aimed to highlight sustainable architecture, raising issues such as how architectural and product design can contribute positively to addressing climate change. To incorporate the annual theme, a thematic section on sustainability was included in the programme with remarkable examples of buildings.

As every year, the programme included a multitude of parallel activities such as guided tours, thematic routes, competitions, online tours and the closing party. More specifically, the OHT 2023 programme included 'MADE in Thessaloniki', with guided tours of goods creation and production areas; 'OPEN WALKs',

with various routes around the city; 'OPEN SCHOOL', which guided educational groups to some of the buildings and production areas of the programme and 'OPEN OFFICE', which offered 2 online tours of architectural offices based in Thessaloniki. In addition, visitors had the opportunity to take part in the 'OPEN PHOTO' and 'OPEN your map' photo competitions on Instagram, as well as the 'OPEN VOTE' audience award competition. The OHEu 'Visual Stories' exhibition open call invited visitors, through their experience of OHT 2023, to reflect on the annual theme through a variety of visual mediums.

The most popular building of OHT 2023 was the Agias Sofias metro station as it is a very anticipated project and the largest transport, development and environmental infrastructure project currently under construction in Greece. Upon its completion, the city of Thessaloniki will become a modern European city, with a decisively improved urban landscape and living conditions for the citizens.

# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

Open House Thessaloniki 2023 festival had 3 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

571

Approximate number of attendees

### List of buildings:

1. Residence in Pylaia
2. West Hall, American College of Thessaloniki
3. Three Green Curves

# Residence in Pylaia



Residence in Pylaia. Photo by Erieta Attali © Courtesy of Open House Greece

This family house addresses contemporary living with sustainable features in a very interesting way. It was constructed in 2008, combining elements of modern design such as metallic frames, wooden panels and concrete. Simple lines, unique materials and the connection between the interior and the exterior are some of the elements worth attention. The orientation of the residence, the solar panels, the type of insulation and the creation of a rich, Mediterranean garden are all governed by bioclimatic principles.

# West Hall, American College of Thessaloniki



West Hall, American College of Thessaloniki. Photo by Nikos Vavdinoudis © Courtesy of Open House Greece

The former primary school of Rigas Feraios is being refurbished to accommodate the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT). The complete renovation and energy upgrade of the building and its surroundings translates into their complete functional, constructional and morphological modernisation to function as a modern and sustainable educational building meeting the ACT's requirements.

Designed by the architect Athanasios Barzoukas in 1974, the building consists of an oblong volume along the north-south axis, spanning four levels yet appearing as a two-storey building due to the slope of the site. It features mono-pitched roofs, east-facing classrooms and the absence of a traditional circulation core, as access to the different floors is via ramps that dominate the west part of the floor plans.



# Three Green Curves



Three Green Curves. Photo from architect's archive © Courtesy of Open House Greece

This residential complex in Thessaloniki consists of three identical buildings in which there are a total of six maisonettes and six apartments. For the design of the houses, the basic principles of bioclimatic design were followed to create sustainable houses that can achieve the minimum amount of energy consumption. The complex follows the natural slope of the land, taking advantage of the plot's orientation and view, occupying an important corner of the building block and leaving the south-east boundary free for the creation of the necessary accesses.

The main concern of the complex's design was for each residence to have openings towards the surrounding area, where a future park will be, and the sea, taking advantage of the natural lighting at the same time. With the design of architectural elements and shades, protection from wind due to the northern orientation as well as sun protection from the western orientation has been achieved. In addition, a key feature of the complex is the curved planted roofs, which act as insulation for the houses and help create a microclimate.

## Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Thessaloniki 2023 festival had 2 other activities from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

Approximate number of total attendees:

2982

### Activities:



Made in Thessaloniki - Kota the studio. Photo by Dimitris Chaltoupis © Courtesy of Open House Greece

**MADE IN THESSALONIKI.** This event comprised tours in creative and production spaces, highlighting the city's creative side while introducing the public to established and emerging creators and producers who are active in Thessaloniki and stand out for their work. The creators and producers led the tours themselves and visitors had the opportunity to see up close how they work using modern and traditional methods, explore the production spaces and understand the production processes. In this year's programme, 31 venues were included and 9 of them used sustainable methods and eco-friendly/recycled

materials, giving visitors insights into various practices that promote sustainability.

**OPEN PHOTO.** There was a photo competition held on Instagram that allowed the public to share their experiences and perspectives. It was open to everyone, inviting amateur and professional photographers to publish photos from the event from a public profile with the relevant hashtag that somehow responded to the 2023 OHEu annual theme of 'Building Futures Together'.

# Integration of the local Open House Festival

Other activities not related to the Open House Europe programme in Open House Thessaloniki 2023:

OPEN WALK  
OPEN SCHOOL  
OPEN VOTE  
OPEN your map

## Shortly about the unique activities

OPEN WALK. Thematic routes have been established in recent years for the OHT guided tours programme and generate a lot of interest from the public. This year's route had the theme of 'Western walls, on the paths of history' and was directly intertwined with the history of Thessaloniki as visible remains of different historical periods, cultures and religions were highlighted.

OPEN SCHOOL. The educational part of the OHT festival, the OPEN SCHOOL offered guided tours for educational departments, schools, institutes or other organised groups of some of the buildings and spaces from MADE in Thessaloniki. The guided tours were by appointment only.

OPEN VOTE. This was an audience award competition which enabled visitors to vote for their favourite tour and take part in the prize draw for a camera. At the same time, the volunteers of the winning buildings/routes were rewarded and received prizes, praise and souvenirs.

OPEN your map. This competition invited visitors to create a special souvenir from OHT 2023, a personal map filled with stamps collected from the buildings they visited. Visitors could upload a photo of their stamped map on Instagram from a public profile, tagging OPEN HOUSE Thessaloniki. The favourite map of the OHT organisers won a commemorative OHT gift.



OPEN WALK - Western Walls. Photo by Dimitra Argyropoulou © Courtesy of Open House Greece

# Local volunteer activities

## Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

**15** coordinators,

**485** volunteers

Every year, the volunteers of OHT become a large community: during rehearsals with their team, at the info point, at OHT's meetings and culminating in the closing party. The distinctive T-shirt they wear signifies their role during the event and makes them stand out. Their main responsibilities include welcoming, guiding and accompanying visitors to buildings, informing the public and promoting products at various points in the city. After the conclusion of the event, they receive an electronic participation certificate.

Volunteers are expected to be kind, cooperative, patient, communicative, dynamic and consistent. A prerequisite for participation

in the volunteer team is being above the age of 18 and being available during the event days. They are called upon to prepare adequately to fulfil their role so participation in the initial information meeting is important. During this meeting, they were divided into groups for rehearsals with a dedicated group coordinator. Additionally, they could assist in parallel activities that took place before the main event and in other tasks such as literary research, writing texts, translations and putting up posters. There was also a competition on Instagram specifically for volunteers, where they could upload stories from the event's preparation, with the lucky winner receiving a camera as a prize.

## Gathering with volunteers 2 days before the event



Volunteers meeting © Courtesy of Open House Greece

Two days before the main event, we organised a gathering outside our info point to distribute the T-shirts and other required materials. A radio station, which was OHT's media sponsor, played music while organisers and volunteers enjoyed food and drinks.

Approximate number  
of total attendees:

**500**

# Different audiences in the local Open House festival

Open House Thessaloniki 2023 attracted approx. 265 attendees to the English guided tours.

Number of buildings that had guided tours in other languages (Spanish, Italian, German):

4

## Programme for non-native speakers

OHT attracts both native and non-native speakers since it has guided tours in English for all of the buildings. It is an event that celebrates architecture and urban design, providing opportunities for people from all backgrounds to explore and learn more about the city's buildings and spaces. As such, it is a hotly anticipated festival and tourists visiting

during the festival weekend are informed by their hotels, taxi drivers and press about it. The OHT website and promotional material are also in English.

Open House Thessaloniki is supported by the Thessaloniki City Municipality and the Deputy Mayorship of Culture and Tourism.



## Distribution

### OPEN OFFICE

This online event, established in recent years, highlights the profession of an architect by introducing the public to renowned and emerging architects who stand out in their field. It includes a series of interviews with architects who discuss their work and introduce their workspace and methods. In this year's videos, architects analysed contemporary ways of planning and parameters they take into account regarding sustainability. The videos premiered on the Open House Thessaloniki YouTube channel. The OHT 2023 participating offices were UBU PLAN and Normless.

Link to OPEN OFFICE 2023:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E14IbKikDDU&list=PLTMsZwzLFrcE65XlfqI-N4DKO-IS1MCjQF>

Deloitte Offices. Photo by Georgia Kasapi  
© Courtesy of Open House Greece



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# Open House Vilnius 2023

## Introduction

### General information about the event

Event No.:	E7.1 Open House Vilnius 2023
Legal Name:	Architektūros fondas
Date:	13–14 May 2023
Name:	Open House Vilnius
Number of buildings/areas included in the programme:	60 buildings and 2 artistic performances/installations
City:	Vilnius
Country:	Lithuania
Duration:	2 days

### Festival participants

In total, Open House Vilnius 2023 attracted 39000 attendees.

The festival had 450 volunteers.

Open House Vilnius 2023 was organised by 5 male and 23 female organisers, in total 28 people.

# Introduction

Open House Vilnius (OHV) is the biggest architecture festival in Lithuania, aiming to spread knowledge about architecture and create opportunities for everyone to experience it first-hand. The festival was first organised in 2015 and has been constantly growing since then.

In 2023, around 60 buildings of exceptional architectural quality and importance to the city and its communities were opened. Volunteer guides led free excursions during both of the event days. Around 450 volunteers participated in the 2023 edition of the festival, attracting approximately 39000 visitors.

The main topic of OHV 2023 was 'The Comfort of Being' and the main idea was to reflect on the concept of comfort in different periods—from the late 19th century till now. How has

it changed? Does it still meet expectations? What were the standards then and what are they now? These were some of the explored questions.

The most popular buildings during the event were those whose access to the public is usually limited (such as the house of Ignas Parcevskis) and new additions to the OHV programme (for example, the building of ISM University of Management and Economics / Former Vilnius Central Post Office). Also, some buildings did not have a lot of visitors due to limited capacity and longer queues (for example, Vilnius Choral Synagogue or Vilnius Heat Plant). As always, some public favourites attract a lot of visits each year, such as the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore/ Vileišis Palace.

# Integration of the Open House Europe programme

## Buildings reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Vilnius 2023 festival had 8 buildings from the festival's programme dedicated to showcasing the Open House Europe (OHEu) annual theme: Sustainability, Building Futures Together.

**5666**

Approximate number of attendees

The annual theme was explored from two perspectives, categorising the buildings into two groups:

### 1. Sustainability in Modern Architecture—Technological Advancements

In this group, the integration of sustainable practices within modern architectural designs was explored, emphasising the role of technological advancements. This includes the implementation of eco-friendly materials, energy-efficient systems and innovative construction techniques to create environmentally conscious and sustainable structures.

### 2. Renovation and Adaptive Reuse—Transforming Heritage

The second group addressed sustainability through the renovation and adaptive reuse of existing structures within the OHV project. By revitalising and repurposing older buildings, the project seeks to preserve architectural heritage while integrating modern sustainability practices. This involves careful consideration of energy-efficient upgrades, the use of sustainable materials and the incorporation of eco-friendly technologies to breathe new life into historical structures.

#### List of buildings:

1. S7 Business Centre and Headquarters for Telia Lietuva
2. Seb Bank's Headquarters
3. k29 Business Centre
4. Vilnius Pilaite Gymnasium
5. Complex 'Bokšto Skveras'
6. Tech Parkas
7. ISM University of Management and Economics
8. Internamas—The Dormitory of National M. K. Čiurlionis School of Art

# k29 Business Centre (group 1)



k29 Business Centre. Photo by Martyna Bakaitė - Burokienė © Courtesy of Architektūros fondas

This office building on Konstitucijos Avenue has received the highest rating for harmony with the environment in the Baltic countries. The building has been awarded the 'Excellent' BREEAM In-Use certificate and was the first building with this type of certificate in the Baltic countries. The project also received all the main Lithuanian architecture and innovation awards: Archiforma, the best Real Estate project, Žvilgsnis į save (Eng. Look at yourself) and one by the Ministry of Environment. The building has been designed with the quality of staff work areas in mind, integrating new dual façade technology that protects against noise and contributes to maintaining optimal indoor temperatures.

# ISM University of Management and Economics (group 2)



ISM University of Management and Economics. Photo by Mark Segalis © Courtesy of Architektūros fondas

This building housed one of the first banks in Vilnius and is a great example of harmonious historicist architecture in the city. Its function changed three times—from a bank building to the Central Post Office designed by the architectural team of the Nasvytis Brothers and now, a newly equipped, modern Western university. The most recent reconstruction had to organically fit into the long history of the building. The architects had to adapt the building to the needs of the university and ensure it would be comfortable and convenient for its new residents. At the same time, they had to preserve and incorporate the unique heritage of the Nasvytis Brothers into a building being renovated in a modern Scandinavian style.

## Internamas — The Dormitory of National M. K. Čiurlionis School of Art (group 2)



Internamas. Photo by Vytautė Ribokaitė © Courtesy of Architektūros fondas

The building which houses the Vilnius International School dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> centuries. At the time, the building consisted of two parts: a wooden structure on Latako St. and a brick one on Russian St. They were used by a chocolate factory for production, storage and administration with the owner residing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The Vilnius International School was established in the building in 2020. Currently, students from 30 countries between grades 8-12 study here. The school's reception desk and seating in the corridor of the second floor were recycled from burnt wood of the buildings previously located on this site that were found in 2018-2019 during archaeological excavations.



# Additional activities reflecting the annual theme

The Open House Vilnius 2023 festival had 1 other activity from the festival programme dedicated to showcasing the OHEu annual theme of 'Sustainability, Building Futures Together'.

Approximate number  
of attendees in total:

**500**

## Pavilion: Vilnius 200 Years Ago

When creating a modern and sustainable environment, it is important to know its history. Based on this notion, the outdoor exhibition 'Pavilion: Vilnius 200 Years Ago' was presented at the Lithuanian National Museum during OHV, which exhibited scientific research about Vilnius in the 19th century.

The interactive exhibition explored the city, its residents and the life of that time through a variety of artistic means. The layout of the city was reproduced based on iconographic material such as city maps and drawings of buildings. The architecture of the exhibition combined the multi-layered exhibition into

a single informational, spatial and social network, an atlas, that involved the residents and guests of the city to meet each other and engage in dialogue. It was not just a pavilion in the city, but a city within a pavilion.

The necessary architectural solutions for realising the exhibition did not require complex construction processes, like the design of a new building, instead focusing on the use of light structures which allowed the pavilion to expand the boundaries of the museum, creating and presenting even more content to visitors and sustainably meeting the need for the required space.

# Integration of the local Open House Festival

Other activities not related to the Open House Europe programme in Open House Vilnius 2023:

- Opening event
- Artistic narrative/performance
- Closing event

## Opening event

The programme started with an opening event for OHV's special guests (sponsors, architects, municipality representatives, building owners and other people important to the festival) and people from the OHV community (organisers, coordinators, mentors and OHV alumni). It was an opportunity to learn OHV 2023 and enjoy a special performance.

## Artistic narrative/performance

Based on the idea of talking about architecture through different art forms (such as dance, performance and music), in 2023, OHV presented the solo dance performance 'WORK-PIECE' by artists Anna-Marija Adomaitytė and Gautier Teuscher. The performance was repeated twice per day during both festival days.

## Closing event

The closing event was exclusively for the OHV community: organisers, coordinators, mentors and volunteers who participated in the 2023 edition. During the event, various mini awards were presented such as The One Who Went The Extra Mile, The Best Team Picture and The Biggest Number Of Visits. The event also allowed the OHV community to socialise informally and share their experiences of OHV 2023.

# Local volunteer activities



Training of volunteers. Photo by Vytautė Ribokaitė © Courtesy of Architektūros fondas

## Training of volunteers

Approximate number of attendees:

**400**

During training sessions, volunteers received general information about and instructions for the event, alongside public speaking workshops. It provided an opportunity for

everybody to bond, be on the same page about the OHV 2023 programme and events, let go of the fear of public speaking and get to know their team and buildings.

# Training of mentors

Approximate number of attendees:  
60 mentors + 30 OHV organisers  
and coordinators



Training of mentors. Photo by Vytautė Ribokaitė © Courtesy of Architektūros fondas

This event included team management and leadership training and a discussion about this year's theme together with a few architects and theoreticians of architecture. The topic of discussion was related to the OHEu annual theme, providing wider context

and encouraging mentors to incorporate the theme into the text of their guided tours. The event was the first time the majority of mentors met in person so it also allowed everyone to get to know each other and share their best practices.

## Trial excursions



Excursion in Lithuanian National Drama Theater. Photo by Inga Lazarenko © Courtesy of Architektūros fondas

A few weeks before the event, trial excursions took place, offering the OHV community to participate in a pre-event and learn from each other. Each building had to organise at least two trial excursions so the team of volunteers could try to run the excursion and check if everything was okay with the route, information, timing and so on. All volunteers from other buildings were free to attend and learn good practices, share feedback and get information about the building.

Approximate number of attendees: 120 excursions open to all volunteers

# Different audiences in the local Open House festival

Open House Vilnius 2023 had guided tours for English speakers that attracted 867 attendees.

Approximate number of visits/attendees in Ukrainian:

**185**

8 tours were completely adapted for people with mobility impairments/physical disabilities and 19 tours were partially adapted for people with mobility impairments/physical disabilities due to minimal parts of the excursions being unavailable or using a slightly different route.

## Programme for non-native speakers

The selection of buildings for guided tours in English and other languages was based on their representation of different periods of Vilnius' architecture, such as the late 19th century, modernism, postmodernism and contemporary styles. To engage non-native speakers in the festival's activities and communication, additional training was provided to volunteers to familiarise them with the festival, its activities, plans and programme. This ensured that non-native English-speaking volunteers had all the necessary information to participate and be part of the team. All main information was also translated into English and mentors for buildings with non-native English-speaking teams were fluent in English, enabling them to convey necessary information in various languages and manage diverse teams.

Engaging non-native English speakers, especially Ukrainian speakers, posed a challenge due to varying levels of fluency. To address this, some mentors were fluent in Russian or had some knowledge of Ukrainian, facilitating better communication. A collaboration with Go Vilnius was established, which aided in translating materials to Ukrainian and disseminating information about the event and volunteering opportunities to the Ukrainian community. The experience highlighted the importance of inclusivity for non-native English speakers in such events.

## Programme for people with disabilities

To enhance the accessibility of festival information and content for people with disabilities, the OHV website and brochure featured two specific icons. One icon indicated guided tours were fully adapted for people with mobility impairments, and the other signified tours where part of the route was made accessible. The festival's accessibility was largely dependent on the accessibility features of the buildings.

There were no special events or programmes exclusively dedicated to people with disabilities, as the aim was to avoid exclusion. Similarly, there were no specific partnerships or collaborations with organisations that specialise in supporting people with disabilities.

One of the key lessons learned from the experience was the challenge of adapting excursions for people with disabilities, especially considering OHV's goal of opening spaces that are typically inaccessible to the public. This often made it difficult to showcase certain areas of the buildings, such as technical rooms, rooftop terraces and other unique features.

# Partner festivals





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